

TNEC

AUGUST | 2016



Cowboy CHRONICLE



Inside...

**PARTY LIKE A
VANDERBILT
COSTUMING FUN
WITH TEXAS FLOWER**

**WILD BUNCH
PINE MOUNTAIN POSSE'S
THIRD ANNUAL MATCH
BY PALAVER PETE**

**THE PHILIPPINE
INSURRECTION
MILITARY HISTORY
BY BIG DAVE**

In what may go in the record books as "The Year of the Slicker," Hoosier races through nonstop rain at the 2015 Mason-Dixon Stampede Eastern Divisional to try to acquire a solid grip on his firearms.

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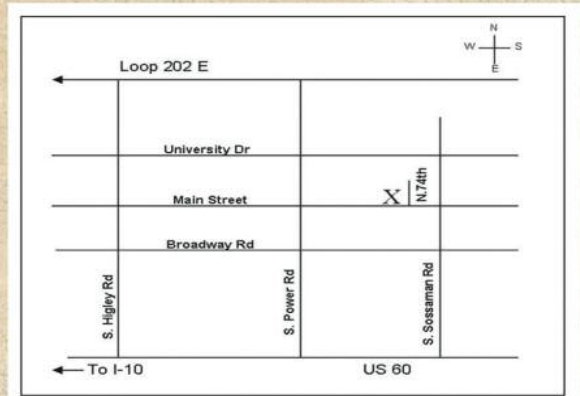
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The Cowboy Chronicle



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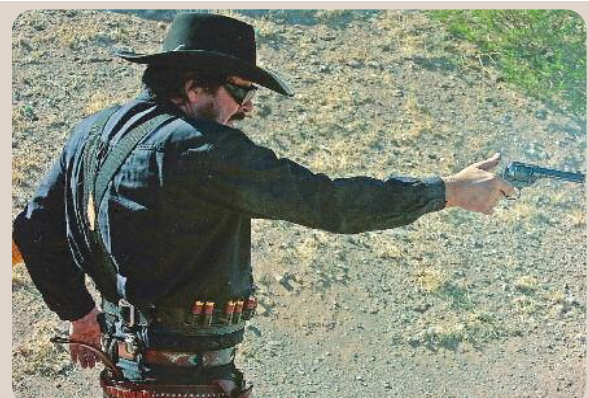
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West Fargo (SASS #1910), one of the legendary figures in Cowboy Action Shooting™ and Cowboy Fast Draw, left us last May to compete on God's range. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts. His full obituary can be found on page 50 in this edition. 

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From The Editor

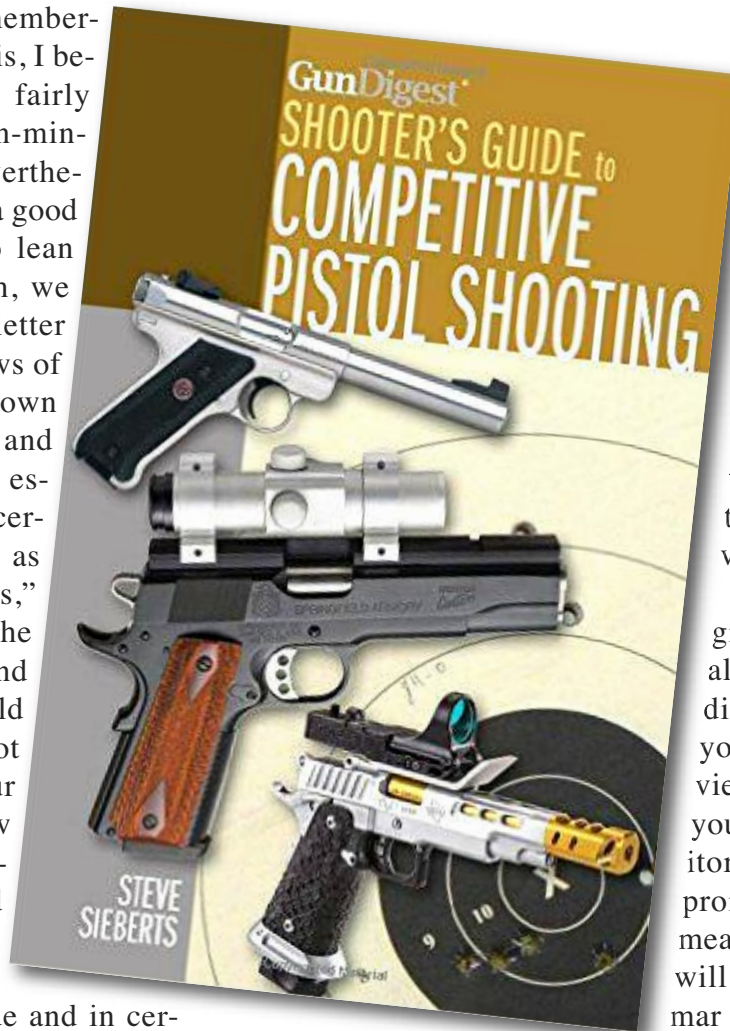
SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

By Skinny, SASS #7361



Skippy, SASS #7361

While most of the membership base of SASS is, I believe, comprised of fairly conservative, Republican-minded persons, we are nevertheless a diverse group with a good proportion of those who lean more to the left. As such, we will sometimes get in a letter or two criticizing the views of Colonel Dan, or even my own views, on gun control and politics. A recent letter espoused the opinion that certain firearms, such as so-called “assault weapons,” should be kept out of the hands of the citizenry and the government that would ban them would surely not go on to take away our Cowboy guns. In my view this is, sadly, a short-sighted perception and flies in the face of the entire history of gun control measures, both worldwide and in certain areas of the United States. As far as I can tell, every measure banning one style of firearm has led to the ban of another style of firearm and finally to a ban on all firearms, until even muzzleloaders, air guns, and toy guns become regulated. And that’s why I think it’s important to resist gun control of any kind, even if it doesn’t affect the guns in which you’re interested. And *that’s* why, as I’ve said in a previous editorial, I think the coming Presidential election could be pivotal in our struggles to retain our gun rights. Remember, this time around you will not be voting for a liberal or a conservative President. You will be voting for a President who



will have the opportunity to change the face of the Supreme Court. Consider that at the ballot box and please consider voting for the more conservative candidate—Donald Trump—even if you don’t particularly like that candidate. I don’t particularly like him but I will vote for him.

Now, as I said at the beginning of this diatribe, I realize there are others with differing viewpoints and if you would like to have your viewpoint heard, I encourage you to send me your guest editorial. I will print it and I promise I won’t change your meaning, but do keep in mind I will edit it for size and grammar and you must agree to publish your alias along with it.

Guide to Pistol Shooting

Moving on to other matters, a new book by Steve Sieberts is available from Gun Digest, *The Shooter’s Guide to Competitive Pistol Shooting*, and it is a good resource for those interested in many of the shooting sports, including Cowboy Action Shooting™. For the CAS section, the author made use of Tex’s expertise and illustrated the section with a number of photographs that Tex provided. It also covers IPSC, IDPA, three-gun, and much more. If you’re interested in reading an introduction to non-Cowboy disciplines or if you just want a good book to show to newcomers interested in Cowboy

Skinny's Soapbox . . .

(Continued from previous page)

Action Shooting™, you might consider this book. It's available at www.amazon.com among others.

Comic Book Corner

This issue features another adventure of Dusty Ballew from *Prize Western* #70, April 1945, written by Irving Werstein and drawn by Al Carreno. Both creators produced material for Feature Publications, which published *Prize* among others and were among those who successfully made the transition from super hero comic books to the Western genre in the late 1940s. As always, material for Comic Book Corner comes to us through Comic Book Plus. Visit their website at www.comicbookplus.com to enjoy more vintage Western and other genre comic books.

— Skinny 🐎

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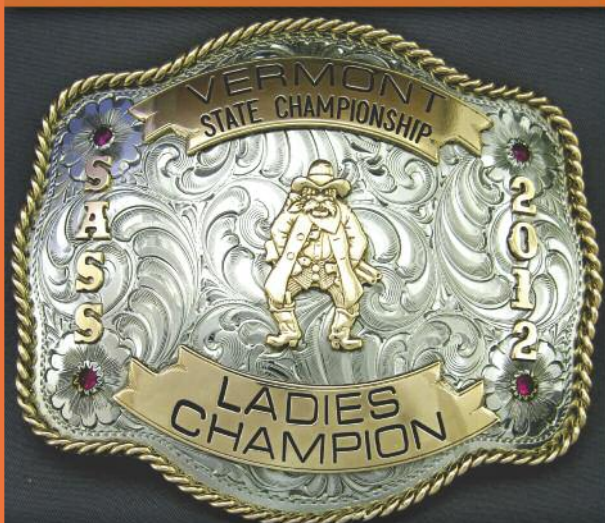


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Joaquin Through The Stampede

MASON-DIXON STAMPEDE

October 1-4 2015

By Dogmeat Dad, SASS #48563



Dogmeat Dad,
SASS #48563
with
granddaughter
Summer Breeze,
SASS #103640

Thurmont, Maryland — Home of the Thurmont Conservation & Sportsman’s Club and host for the *Inaugural SASS Eastern Divisional*, the Mason-Dixon Stampede 2015. Formerly the Northeast Regional, the Mason-Dixon Stampede became the Eastern Divisional as part of the expansion of the

SASS Championship Match schedule. Under the returning leadership of Chuckaroo (SASS #13080) as Match

Director, it was certainly one for the record books, although maybe not in the way everyone had hoped.

After many months of preparation and numerous weekends painting and fixing props, setup officially kicked off on the Saturday prior to match weekend. So many folks deserve recognition for their hard, dedicated efforts, whether it was building props, painting store fronts, hacking weeds, moving gravel, decorating stages, or any of the thousand tasks that needed doing, it’s hard to name them all. But I would be remiss if I didn’t at least thank Mt. Airy Undertaker, Snapshot Sandy, Ruger Rose, Sassy Patty, Misfire Maggie, Huron, Catocin, Ozark Bob, Waco Wayne, and many, many others whose artistic and carpentry skills kept the props looking good. Finally, I can’t forget to thank the members of the Thurmont Conservation & Sportsman’s Club for the use of their range and for the numerous other tasks they did



The renowned Mason-Dixon Stampede Canopy Centipede at rest.



Patchhogue Mike (SASS #8626) smokin’ it!

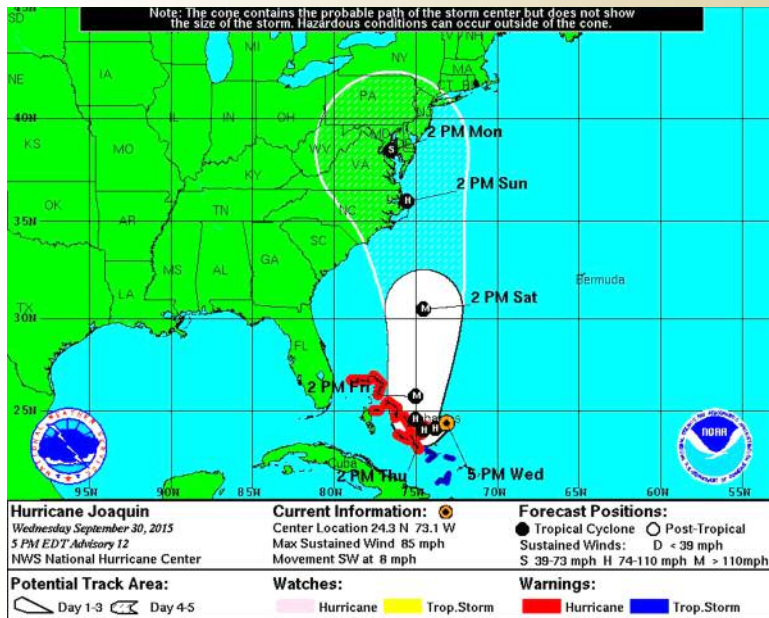
Mason-Dixon Stampede . . .

to help us make this event the best it could be.

The stages this year, written by Cash Caldwell (SASS #5505), were challenging but didn't require a genius level IQ to complete, fortunately for me! In the mix was a brand spanking new moving target, the Thurmont Express! The Thurmont Express is a train engine target that runs downhill on tracks after being triggered by a hit on a trip plate and it worked flawlessly. The Express spent the match chugging its way across Bay 7, much to the delight, or dismay, of the shooters. It was designed and built from scratch by our very own D.Q. Dave (SASS #39971), Chance Calico (SASS #54214), and MT Chambers (SASS #76185), and their incredible efforts with this target and all its associated props are truly a work of art. The three of them went above and beyond the call this year and it was greatly appreciated.

Although 2014 blessed us with near perfect weather for the Stampede, 2015 had us contending with the affects of a monster storm, Hurricane Joaquin. Climbing rapidly from a tropical storm to a Category 4 hurricane, and just two miles per hour short of a Category 5, Hurricane Joaquin seemed to have it sights firmly set on Thurmont. Although not directly associated with Joaquin, the cold, soaking rains began on Wednesday, September 30, the day the Berm Marshals were scheduled to shoot all 10 stages. At noon, the National Weather Service updated its projection for the path of Joaquin showing that it would travel right up the eastern seaboard, steer directly up the Chesapeake Bay, and land right on top of Thurmont on Monday. Knowing how fast the waters of the Monocacy River can rise, the decision was made to move campers to higher ground and several of the Berm Marshals left to do just that. Campers were moved to alternate locations on the club grounds and, when those were full, additional camping was arranged at the Maryland State Trap Ranges adjacent to club property.

Thursday was Side Match Day and with it the rain continued to fall. Hurricane Joaquin had stalled, which was good news, but that locked the rain in place for yet another day. Along with the weather, Thursday found the range had blossomed with a sea of Pop-Up Canopies. The Thurmont Rangers did an awesome job providing as much cover as possible on the stages. Every loading and unloading table was covered, and all the stages had at least one 10'



Hurricane Joaquin—National Weather Service Forecast

x 10' canopy for shooter cover. The 10' x 20' canopy on Stage 1 even had side curtains and a heater and it was a very popular stage! A special Thank You to everyone who loaned their canopies for the event and especially to the Damascus Wildlife Rangers who lent us eight of them!

Throwing caution to the wind (and rain) the side matches went on as planned. Speed Pistol, Speed Rifle, Speed Shotgun, Pocket Pistol, and the Three Stage Blast were held on the shooting bays, and Long Range Rifle was held on the 300-yard range. In addition, Shamrock

(Continued on page 10)



Tex (SASS #4) and Skinny (SASS #7361) braving the downpour to shoot the match.

Mason-Dixon Stampede . . .

(Continued from page 9)

Sadie (SASS #78511) held her Doily Gang Ladies Clinic, with proceeds benefiting the SASS Scholarship Fund, and there was also a three-stage Wild bunch Mini-Match. Even with the rain, some of the times were really incredible! JB Sledge (SASS #82229) shot his rifle 10 times with 10 hits in just 1.99 seconds! And proving that the Cowgirls are also a force to be reckoned with, Spinning Sally (SASS #89526) did it in 3.08 seconds. That's fast! Winners for all of the side matches can be found at <http://thurmontrangers.com/mdsscores2015.htm>.

Friday was the first day of the Main Match and shooters shot either stages 1-5 or 6-10, switching to shoot the other five stages on Saturday. By this time, it looked like Hurricane Joaquin was going to veer more to the east and we would miss the brunt of the storm and that was great news. However, that also further stalled the storm coming from the northwest, which continued to bless us with even more of that lovely "refrigerated liquid sunshine."

The theme for 2015 was "The Best Of John Wayne" and knowing the "Duke" would not be deterred by a little rain, 199 Cowboys and Cowgirls "Cowboy'd Up" and the match was on! Hunkered down in their slickers, or huddled under their canopies, they proceeded to let the lead fly to save the day like John Wayne. And talk about dense air, the Black Powder shooters had the "Best Day Ever," assuming they had no desire to see any of the targets, IT WAS AWESOME!

Friday also brought with it a never before seen creature, the Canopy Centipede! One of the posses managed to round up four of their own canopies and



*Hand Cannon (SASS #60485):—
"What the heck was I thinkin?!"*



MATCH WINNERS

James Samuel Pike (SASS #53331) and Spinning Sally (SASS #89526) with Tex (SASS #4) and Cat Ballou (SASS #55).

The WILD BUNCH Mini Match

By *Loco Poco Lobo SASS #36108*
New England/Northeast Wild Bunch Ambassador



The Mason Dixon Stampede hosted the Inaugural SASS Eastern Divisional Championship October 2015. As part of the events, a Wild Bunch mini match was held on Side Match day.

There were three stages dedicated to Wild Bunch with three to four magazines used per stage! Even though Mother Nature tried to stop the fun, several Wild Ones braved the elements and participated. In between the raindrops, shooters slung the lead and later teased their friends who stayed in drier places. For complete scores please visit <http://thurmontrangers.com/mdsscores2015.htm>.

Mason-Dixon Stampede . . .

carried them from stage to stage. It was amusing to watch their 40-foot long parade slowly marching between stages with all of the cart drivers huddled underneath trying to stay dry. What can you say? They are Cowboys!

Friday Night was the BBQ dinner for all shooters, where we were treated to the nostalgic sounds of the Old West by cowboy entertainer, Dandy Don while we ate a delicious dinner of BBQ Beef, Ribs, or Chicken with all the fixin's. During a break in the dinner, Side Match Awards were presented, during which everyone cheered for the winners and commiserated with those who "missed it by that much." For dessert, we celebrated the birthday of Cat Ballou (SASS #55) with "Seeks Cakes," but that's a story for another time. (For those who were there, I think the restraining order keeping me out of Costco has finally expired!)

I guess in all my focus on the weather, I failed

to mention that Tex (SASS #4) and Cat Ballou (SASS #55) graced our match with their presence. If you ever get the opportunity to sit down and talk to them, take it. They exemplify the "Cowboy Way" in everything they do (including shooting both days in the rain) and they absolutely, positively, without a doubt Love This Game! It was my extreme pleasure to have the opportunity to talk with them at the Stampede and I hope to get that opportunity to do so again in the future.

Saturday dawned with—you guessed it—more rain. By now it was definite that Hurricane Joaquin would spin itself out into the Atlantic Ocean, but not before allowing the other storms to continue to dump more of that wet stuff on the Stampede. Undeterred, 182 Cowboys and Cowgirls returned for day two to battle the elements, take down the bad guys and, in the end, 181 completed that journey. A test of True Grit that would make even the Duke proud! After everyone had a chance to dry off and warm up, those

(Continued on page 13)

Mason-Dixon Stampede 2015



The Year of the Slicker

Mason-Dixon Stampede . . .

(Continued from page 11)

who chose to attend the banquet were treated to a scrumptious meal with a delicious New York style cheesecake for dessert. (As a side note, it appears Cowboys are completely capable of consuming more than 100 pounds of bakery goods in just two meals!)

By the way, have you ever tried to judge a shooting costume contest in the rain, when everyone is wearing a slicker? It can be quite a challenge as you can well imagine. While not ideal conditions, our judges managed to sneak a peek beneath the slickers and pick the winners. Congratulations to Best Dressed Shooting Cowboy, Monte Cisco (SASS #79762); Best Dressed Shooting Cowgirl, Jewels Cartwright (SASS #102470); Best Dressed Shooting Junior Boy, Cobb Richardson (SASS #91364); and Best Dressed Shooting Junior Girl, BB Richardson (SASS #91363).

Following the Saturday dinner, everyone had the opportunity to experience Games Of Chance At The ACME Saloon. Participants purchased casino chips and used those to play games from the old west: Faro, Chuck-a-Luck, and Roulette. When the gamblers finished for the evening, they turned in their chips for raffle tickets and then placed those into buckets for whichever of the numerous prizes they wanted to win. This year the prizes included a Dillon 650XL, a certificate Donated by Cody Conagher (SASS #6986) for a Short Stroke Action Job, an 1873 Rifle donated by Taylors & Company, a complete Lee Reloading Setup, and many more items. Lil Feathers, who I later found out put almost \$200.00 worth of tickets into the bucket, won the Dillon Press. YeeeeeeHaaaaaaa!

Of course the night could not have happened without volunteers working the dealer tables. A special thanks to Lil Feathers (SASS #48563), spinning the Roulette Wheel; Sassy Patty (SASS #58547) whirling dice on the Chuck-a-Luck table; Catoctin (SASS #41394) who yet again manned the Bank; and yours truly fumbling cards at the Faro Table. It was a lot of fun and all of the money raised, almost \$1,000.00, went to a great cause, the SASS Scholarship Fund.

Sunday morning dawned and the rains finally started to fade away. Folks gathered for Cowboy

Church in the big tent followed by some fun shoots, man on man, and three-person team shoots, while waiting for the Awards Ceremony. There were 12 clean matches in total, and considering the conditions, that was impressive. But even more impressive was performance of the Overall Match Winner and first ever-Eastern Divisional Champion, James Samuel Pike (SASS #53331), who not only shot the match clean but bested the second place challenger by an average of 2.41 seconds per stage! For the Ladies, the Overall Match Winner and first-ever Eastern Divisional Champion, was Spinning Sally (SASS #89526). Congratulations to the Champions and everyone who had the opportunity to attend.

While I can't promise perfect weather for 2016, I can promise that it will be another great match with great stages and that the Thurmont Rangers, under the leadership of Chuckaroo, will do everything in their power to make sure you have a great time, regardless of what Mother Nature hurls our way. Our theme for 2016 is be "The Reel West," celebrating some of those wonderful movie Westerns we all love. Match dates are September 29, 2016-October 2, 2016 and we would love to have you attend. The targets will be BIG, the targets will be CLOSE, and who knows maybe you can "Get 'em All."

Match information is available here

<http://thurmontrangers.com/MDSmain.htm>

and match applications are available here

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News

The Second



Another Huge Success!

The second “class” of Cimarron and Pietta Young Guns are Jessica Weekly, (Little Red Sure Shot, 16 years old), Wabash, Indiana; Robert Manney (Dead on Bob, 15), Olympia, Washington; Colton Riley (Copperbottom Colt, 15), James Creek, Pennsylvania; Katherine Alexandria Banda-Segura (Little Bullseye, 15), Fentress, Texas; Lee Fricke (Skeeter Lee, 16), Lima, Ohio; and Noah Fricke (Chocataw Kid, 14), Lima, Ohio. They joined a previous class of six Young Guns who immediately offered mentorship and camaraderie.

The Young Guns program was created as a platform to inspire young SASS® competitors to stay committed to the sport. We do not look for top shooters; instead we looked for well-rounded individuals with drive and heart.

Chocataw Kid said, “With my new guns from Cimarron I won first place Buckaroo at Indiana State and won Buckaroo speed pistol, speed rifle, and 22 combo. Before I got the pistols at Ohio State I won first place Buckaroo and Best Dressed Buckaroo. At Guns of August I won first place Buckaroo and Best Dressed Young Gun Boy. I have also gotten first place Buckaroo at several different clubs in Ohio and Indiana.”

Little Red Sure Shot said, “Being a Cimarron Young gun has been a big motivator for me, it feels good and pushes me to improve myself knowing the people at Cimarron see something in me. It’s a great program that I know will give many more young shooters confidence and a great start to their shooting career. It has been a great experience for me. I have met lots of new shooters who have helped me



The Second Cimarron and Pietta Young Guns Program . . .

Congratulations to

CIMARRON F.A. Co. & ELLIPIETTA

2015 Young Guns!

Here are photos of them celebrating the news this past weekend

"Copperbottom Colt"
Colten Riley

"Little Red Sure Shot"
Jessica Weekley

"Dead on Bob"
Robert Manney

"Little Bullseye"
Katherine Banda-Segura

"Skeeter Lee"
Lee Fricke

"Chocataw Kid"
Noah Fricke

in many ways. I love my new set of Pietta Thunderstorm revolvers; they are great guns with smooth actions. They were exceptional right out of the box and are my favorite out of any revolvers I have shot. Thank you Cimarron for making this possible and choosing me as one of your Young Guns, I take pride in being associated with the Cimarron name."

Online applications are now being taken for our next posse of Young Guns and can be found on the Cimarron Firearms website. Applicants must be SASS members between the ages of 13 and 18. The deadline is August 31, 2016. Winners

will receive a pair of Pietta single action revolvers customized with "Young Guns 2017" engraved on the back strap and checkered grips.

APPLY TO BE A CIMARRON AND PIETTA YOUNG GUN!

Cimarron's Third Annual Young Guns program will select six young men and women in SASS for the calendar year of 2017. Each participant will receive a pair of Pietta revolvers. Each Young Gun must agree to send in photos and video in a timely manner for inclusion in communications regarding the program, as well as keep in touch regarding SASS participation and awards.

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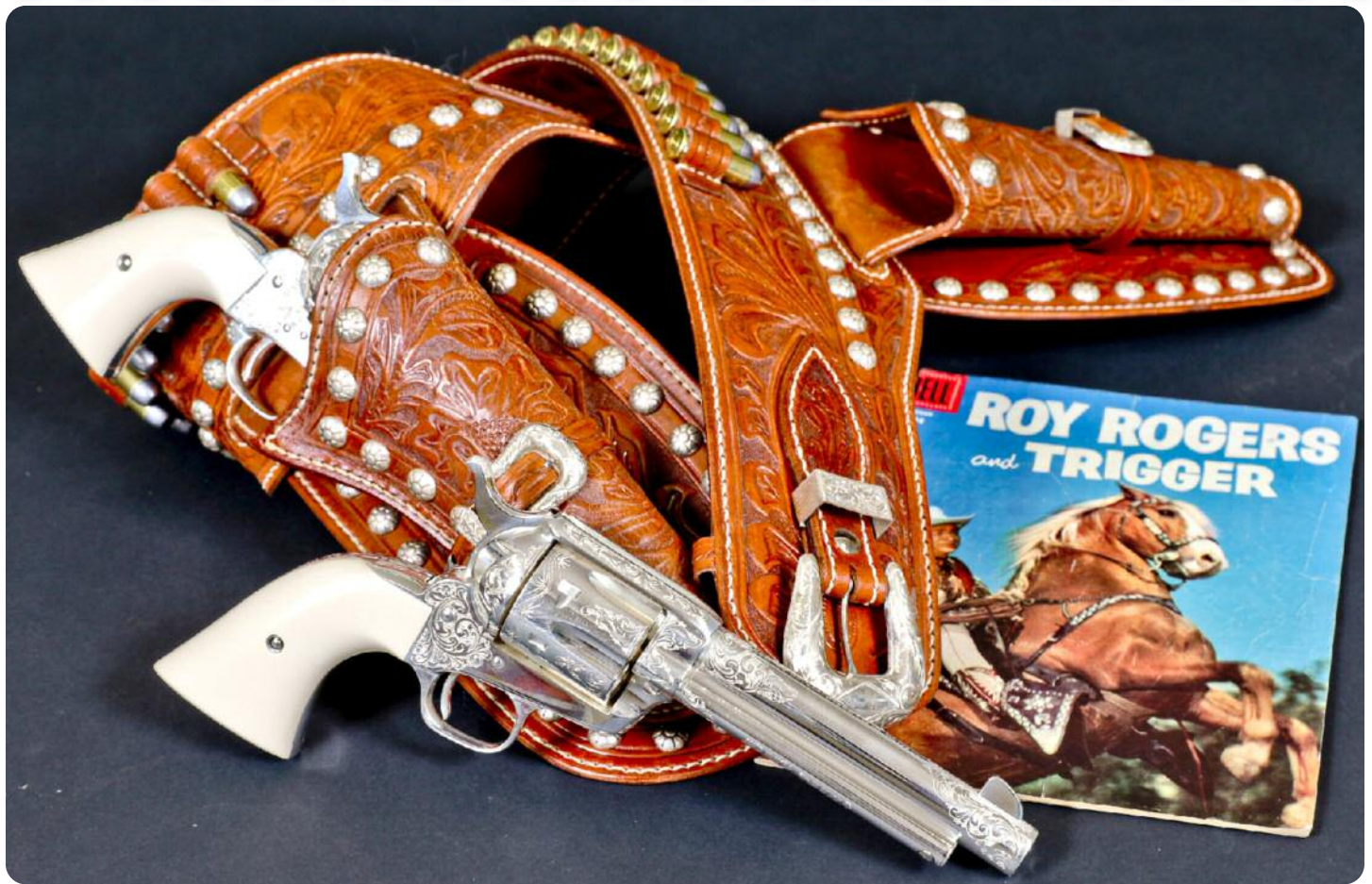
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News

SILVER SCREEN LEGEND XIX DEDICATED TO **ROY ROGERS** KING OF THE COWBOYS



This magnificent matched pair of consecutive-serial-numbered Colt Single Action Army revolvers are in .45 Colt caliber. They are exquisitely factory engraved and silver plated with gorgeous ivory grips. These working guns direct from the Colt Custom Shop are engraved with Happy Trails on the ejector rod housing, Roy's Double R Bar brand behind the hammer at the top of the backstrap, and "Silver Screen Legend XIX" down the backstrap, with additional scrolls and vines. The Hollywood style double Buscadero belt and holster rig is masterfully hand carved with sterling silver

spots and buckle sets in the style of Roy Rogers favorite rig. This is truly a museum quality cowboy collectible that anyone would be proud to own and display.

The Happy Trails Children's Foundation is pleased to honor legendary cowboy hero Roy Rogers with this outstanding tribute. This is the nineteenth year the foundation, through the generosity of the renowned Colt's Manufacturing Co. LLC of Hartford, CT, has used very special guns and holsters to raise money for abused children. Jim Lockwood of Legends in Leather crafted the hand-carved and Ster-

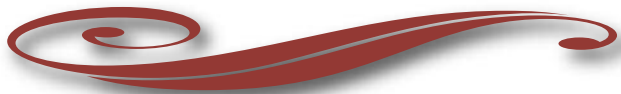
Silver Screen Legend XIX Dedicated To Roy Rogers . . .

ling silver mounted double holster rig. The magnificent silver spots and buckle sets on the belt and holsters were provided by Conrad Anderson, Rocktree Ranch. Ron Love made and donated the prop cartridges. All of these wonderful people and companies are enduring examples of that very special American Spirit known as “the cowboy way.”

As a result of our association with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and the positive and wholesome family values and American Patriotic Traditions they represented, the Happy Trails Children’s Foundation is the *only* known children’s charity in the country today that actively supports shooting sports, Second Amendment Rights, and responsible gun ownership. In turn, the foundation is supported by generous contributions from shooters, collectors, organized shooting sports, the media, and the firearms industry. We are proud of this unique partnership!

Order your tickets today for this beautiful and unique museum quality one-of-a-kind cowboy collectible. Tickets are \$10 each U.S. or 11 tickets for \$100. The drawing will be held Saturday evening, December 17, 2016. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!** The winner will be notified by phone. You may check our web site for the winner’s name, after the drawing.

The total proceeds of this drawing benefit the Happy Trails Children’s Foundation for abused children. The Happy Trails Children’s Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. In accordance with postal regulations, no consideration is necessary to participate in this drawing. There are three easy ways to purchase tickets. You may order tickets by our toll free ORDER LINE (855) 788-4440, by mail, Happy Trails Children’s Foundation, SSL XIX, 10755 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 or online, www.happytrails.org. Discover, MasterCard and VISA accepted. 🇺🇸



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News



Kenda Lenseigne

Uberti Pro Kenda Lenseigne Sets Two World Records at CMSA

ACCOKEEK, Md. (May 10, 2016)—Uberti Pro Kenda Lenseigne, a Cowboy Mounted Shooting champion and Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA) Hall of Famer, set two world records at the recent CMSA National Championship in Tunica, Mississippi.

Mounted on her young mare, “Sparky,” and shooting her new signature series Uberti Short Stroke CMS Pro, Lenseigne recorded world record times in the first two stages of the five-stage event. The pair of world-record times helped Lenseigne to a .70-second advantage in an event in which she would go on to finish second.

“Setting two world records at the CMSA National Championship was especially meaningful this year. I retired my best horse last year, one who set 11 world records in his career and this was the first

CMSA Nationals on my new mare. She came to the game following right in her predecessor’s hoof prints without skipping a beat,” Lenseigne said. “Using my new Uberti Short Stroke CMS Pro revolvers gave me all the confidence in the world that I would be able to shoot as fast as Sparky could run, and sure enough, we did!”

Chambered in the classic .45 Colt and sporting a 3.5-inch barrel, the new Uberti Short Stroke CMS Pro revolver features a low-profile, extra-wide hammer with aggressive checkering and wide rear channel (EasyView) sights. This hammer enables quick target acquisition as well as a constant view of the target.

For more information on Uberti’s new line of Short Stroke revolvers designed for CMS and SASS shooters, go to www.uberti.com.

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Costuming Corner

Party Like A VANDERBILT In Fabulous Costumes!

By Texas Flower, SASS #43753 Life Regulator



Our group in front of the Biltmore House.

And that we did in grand style! For three days, April 29-May 1, 2016, everyone in our group dressed in late 1890s and early 1900s period attire and Partied Like a Vanderbilt on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. Dressed in our cos-

tumes we did feel like we belonged on the Estate!

George Vanderbilt built The Biltmore House in 1895 and the Vanderbilt family still privately owns the house and estate and run it as a family business. The place was amazing and if you



*Texas Flower, SASS
Life/Regulator #43753*



HOST AND HOSTESS
*Bloomin' Yankee and
Blackheart Barrett.*



The Biltmore House

have not seen it, put it on your “bucket list!”

Twenty-four Lords and Ladies came from California, Colorado, Kansas, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, and North Carolina for this event. Many attending were SASS® members and a few were folks who just like the costuming. Our host and hostess were Blackheart Barrett (SASS #70483) and Bloomin’ Yankee (SASS #70484). Bloomin’ Yankee did a fabulous job planning and arranging each and every detail of the event with Estate staff.

Thanks to SASS, many of us had developed an interest in costuming and owned costumes we could use for the event. A few of us needed some early 1900s costumes. Doing the research, learning about the clothing, and putting together costumes for the



SASS members O Bar Freddie, Blackheart Barrett, Cool Hand Lizzie, and Mustang John Bass enjoying Sporting Clays.

time period was a lot of fun!

Our weekend event started on Friday evening with a formal dinner in the champagne cellar of the
(Continued on page 22)

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- The newly designed “Speed Load” shell holder no longer needs a stopper plate under the shells and can be staged at any height you the shooter would like to see them at. Also you no longer have to pull the shell straight up. You are free to choose the angle of grab which suits your shooting style the most.
- Then to finish all this off we have had a new dye lot created called “Gunfighter Brown”™.

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Grand March at the Masquerade Ball.

Party Like A Vanderbilt . . .

(Continued from page 21)

winery on the Estate. There are Biltmore wines and we found them to be very good! After a wonderful dinner, we returned to the Inn on the Estate where we all were staying and changed for an after dinner party called "Party Like a Clampett." It sure was funny how we got into character so easy for that party.

The next morning, we gathered for a tour of the Biltmore House. The "House" looks like America's Castle! It is big and contains many priceless pieces of art, tapestry, and furniture. The gardens and conservatory at the house were beautiful and a perfect place for taking pictures.

Saturday evening we returned to the House for a private tour and reception and we were shown some areas and rooms not open to the public. Because of rain, we were unable to have our reception on the rooftop as planned, but we did get to enjoy it in the Stable Café. The Biltmore horse stables near the house have been turned into a beautiful café.

On Sunday we could choose from various activities. Some went out early for

sporting clays, some took a horse or bicycle ride, but Texas Mac (SASS #43494) and I decided to go to brunch at the Deerpark Restaurant on the Estate for a leisurely breakfast. Several others joined us. After a big brunch, we walked over to the Carriage Barn where fifteen of us were signed up to take a carriage ride. We all enjoyed the ride on a beautiful day. Now we needed to catch a shuttle back to the Inn so we



Dinner in the champagne cellar.



Partying with the Clampetts.

Party Like A Vanderbilt . . .

could join some others in our group for "High Tea." The tea and crumpets were delicious. I might get used to this! #feelingspecial

The culmination of the weekend was on Sunday night. Everyone was taken on a Biltmore shuttle to the Deerpark Restaurant Courtyard for the May Day Feast and Masquerade Ball. We en-

(Continued on page 24)

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The Masquerade costumes were amazing!



Ready for brunch.



Ready for the carriage ride.

Party Like A Vanderbilt . . .

(Continued from page 23)

joyed another wonderful formal dinner and had lots of fun taking pictures of each other's amazing Masquerade Costumes. After dinner we "fell into step," dancing at the ball with our favorite dance instructor, Miss Tabitha (SASS #26972) and her "assistant" Mad Mountain Mike (SASS #4385). We were taught not only Victorian dances, but also the Tango and the

Charleston! Do I need to say... we had *so* much fun!

What a wonderful weekend at a fabulous place with great friends! It is said all good things must end... but *why*? I really liked this place and all the beautiful costumes we wore to Party Like a Vanderbilt! Oh well, it was time to get on down the trail and go to some cowboy matches! More costumes to plan! 🌹

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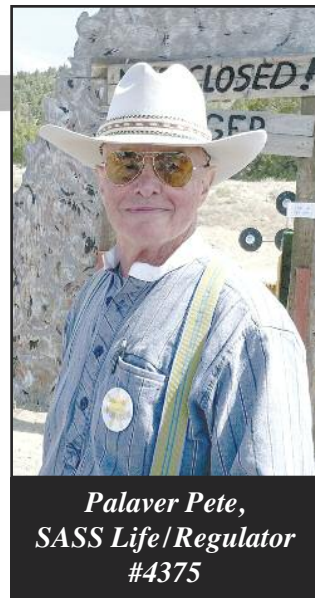


Wild Bunch

Third Annual

PINE MOUNTAIN POSSE'S WILD BUNCH MATCH

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375



Palaver Pete,
SASS Life/Regulator
#4375

Bend, Oregon—High Desert Country—Latitude 44° 03' North—121° 18' West—just a lick and a holler east of the Pacific Ocean—hotter than Hell at times—

colder than Minnesota at other times. This match proved to be the Minnesota kind. Mother Nature was in a nasty mood and dropped snow on us the second day of the shoot.

Okay Mother, we are North West-erners, but come on, this is May and you are pulling stunts (“stunts re-places” a censored word) like this? Have a heart will ya! (Writers note:



Match Director Sunrise Bill checks out all the targets for the Master Gunfighter Stage.



TOP MEN'S SHOOTER
Whisperin' Wade reaches for his shotgun while making his 1911 safe. Lil Italy RO's while Sierra Sage Sue is already attaching the brass.

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Pine Mountain Posse's • Wild Bunch Match . . .



**WORLD LADIES
WILD BUNCH CHAMPION**
*Idaho Six Gun Sam(left) receives her
overall championship medal from
Pine Mountain Posse host Stargazer Sal.*
Photo by Stargazer Sal.

volunteered to not shoot and instead picked up brass and kept score on the club iPads. The Honorable Brass Pickers and Score Keepers were: Sierra Sage Sue and Ms. Sunrise Bravo—thank you ladies!

Match Director Sunrise Bill, SASS#64301, listed the Shoot as a SASS® sanctioned Wild Bunch Match. Spectators called it the Idaho Six Gun Sam and GDub exhibition shoot. It started out peaceful like, with a subtle Side Match called the “Long Range Pistol Challenge.” Spectators ran over to the bay where they thought they heard machine gun fire, but it was simply the two eventual long-range winners, Yuma Colorado and Idaho Six Gun Sam, warming up their guns for the main event. In the Long Range Challenge, some targets were set up close,



Idaho Six Gun Sam displays the form, technique, and accuracy that make her a World Champion Wild Bunch competitor.

no response from Mother Nature received as of yet.) Nevertheless, the event took place and a great time was had by all! The ACP Brass began to fly almost immediately after we saluted Old Glory. Fortunately, two of our lady members

and some were set up way out there. Six Gun Sam hit eight out of ten—four at each distance, while Yuma hit five up close, and two way out there for a total of seven. Someone was heard to say, “stand-by folks, this is just a warm-up, the action has just begun.”

The Pistol Challenge was not
(Continued on page 28)



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Pine Mountain Posse's • Wild Bunch Match . . .

(Continued from page 27)



Managing shoots would be impossible without some volunteers to give up shooting in order to keep score and pick up brass. Here we see Ms. Sunrise Bravo keeping score as well as loading an ammo belt for her man!

ner-up Sunrise Bill finished at 89.61 seconds after a few (not too many) misses. Lil Italy rounded-out the top three with a total time of 94.90. Overall top guns for the match were Idaho Six Gun Sam and Whisperin' Wade. Third place overall went to match director Sunrise Bill. Six Gun Sam overtook Pepper G to win the Ladies Modern Category, while GDub won the Ladies Traditional Category. Whisperin' Wade slipped by Yuma Colorado and Hoss Reese to win the Modern Category, while Sunrise Bill walked away with the Traditional Category crown. Competition was heavy in the Modern



LADIES TRADITIONAL WINNER
GDub scopes-out the next stage from the loading table. Yuma Colorado loads-up behind GDub.

enough to satisfy Sunrise Bill's hunger for action. Next Side Match was the TOUGH HOMBRE, requiring shooters to run from one bay to the next to complete the scenario. Again, Six Gun Sam demonstrated her shooting ability by dashing to victory in 77.00 seconds (clean), while run-



Category, with impressive showings by Deadwood Pete, Lil Italy, Shevlin Kid, and Side Kick Rick.

The Master Gunfighter Stage pitted shooter against shooter. Opponents were determined by matching torn playing cards drawn from a hat. Each shooter was given the opportunity of shooting two rounds before being dropped out. At the beep, each Shooter had to first hit three distant rifle tar-


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cated in Central Oregon. Chuck Wagon cooked the meat as only a four-star chef can and the meal was so good shooters soon forgot about the snow. Joining Charlie was his wife, another new SASS member by the name of Little Two Feet, a one-hundred-percent Native American!

For overall scores and scores by time and category, please visit our website at: www.pinemountainposse.com/ you're a Daisy if ya do. 

gets, make rifle safe, go to shotgun and knock down six targets, make shotgun safe, draw the 1911 and knock down eleven targets—the eleventh being the winner target. The 1911 was also used to knock-down any standing shotgun targets. Overall winner was once again Idaho Six Gun Sam, followed closely by Sunrise Bill. Gdub surprised all by winning third place as well as the Ladies Traditional Category.

Registered shooters and guests received an unexpected treat when former Army cook and new SASS member, Chuck Wagon Charlie showed up with Buffalo meat donated to the match by the Crooked River Bison Ranch—a working ranch lo-

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DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

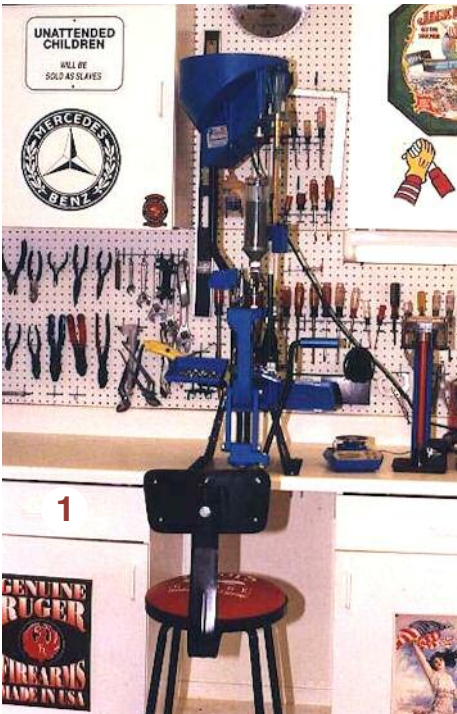
Dillon XL650 Tips and Accessories

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Patron Regulator



Captain George Baylor,
SASS Life / Rugulator #24287

When I was shooting IPSC I started reloading, working my way up to a Dillon 450 when it came out. I sold it when I quit shooting IPSC. When I started SASS I bought a Dillon XL650. That was 1999. I'm still using it and added an SL900 for shotguns. My 650 loads .38 Special (American Pioneer Powder and Heathen Smokeless loads), .45 Colt, .45



Dillon XL650 in my home shop in 2000.

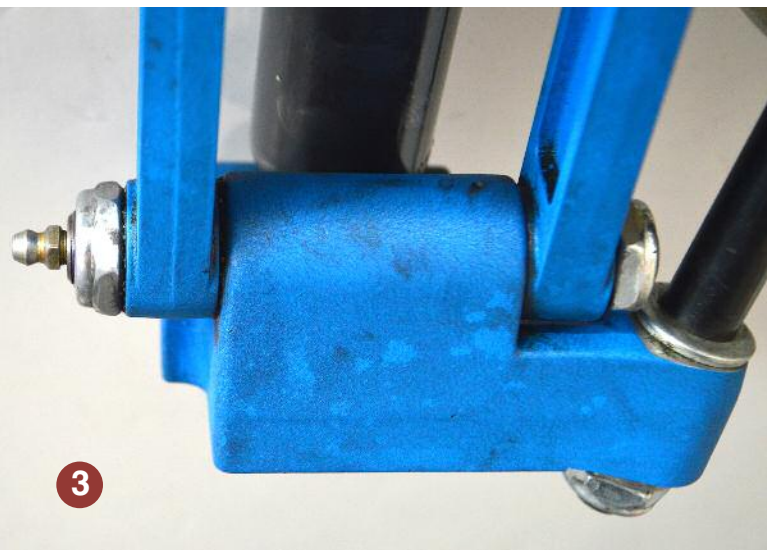


Honey, I shrunk the shop.
Dillon SL900 on left, XL650 on right in the mobile shop 2007.
They're still there, but the shop isn't as clean.

ACP, and .38-55. If I had room I would have at least three XL650s because switching calibers takes time. I've minimized this by acquiring tool head stands for each caliber and a complete powder measure for each load, pre-adjusted (and well marked). As long as I can get the powders I want for each load, the powder measures don't have to be readjusted under ordinary circumstances.

Support

I make use of Dillon's support system. The warranty really is lifetime. Over the years I bought spares of almost everything I often break or lose, and I order another when I break the one in use so the machine seldom has to be down waiting for parts. The 650 has been rebuilt two or three times by the factory. The last time they added grease fittings for greasing



3

When Dillon last rebuilt my XL650 they added grease fittings. This makes greasing them very easy, which makes me more likely to do it. I obtained a small grease gun at AutoZone.



6

ST Engineering's Case Feed Stop.

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

the link arm pins, which is a lot easier than disassembling the link arms and hand greasing the pins.

Cleaning and Lubricating

When I got fanatical about cleaning the machine I started having fewer problems. I use compressed air frequently on the shell plate and primer disc. At least every thousand rounds I take the shell plate and primer disk off and clean everything that rubs. (Take the index ball and spring and the index pawl and spring out and put them in a safe place while doing this.) I use alcohol (no, not tequila) for cleaning, using swabs and patches as appropriate. This includes the primer disc and primer seating punch. You can't use any gun-cleaning solvents and they want you to use only 30-weight oil on the main shaft, not gun oil. Grease is used on the underside of the shell plate bolt where it contacts the shell



7

ST Engineering's Case Feed Stop in place. Drop it in place and no more rounds are dropped, but you can work with problems on the shell plate.



4

Unique Tek's live primer chute, a better method for handling live primers that get ejected than the stock part.



5

Unique Tek's live primer chute in operation.

plate, the ring indexer and indexer block contact points, and the primer cam. Lightly grease the primer disc pin. Grease on the bottom of the station one locator where it touches the platform and the rails that contact it. On the powder measure body collar, lightly grease the rails and the collar roller. If you have the stock case feed ram cam follower, you need to grease the tip and the case insert slide where they touch. The [Dillon XL 650 Premium Performance Improvements Kit](#) eliminates this need as well as smoothing operation. Dillon specifies wheel-bearing grease in the current owner's manual.

The powder measure: use alcohol to clean out the powder bar and the interior of the body where it con-

(Continued on page 32)



Unique Tek's Loaded Round Counter.
Mount the counter on the primer tube, and...

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 31)

tacts the powder bar. Clean the drop tube interior and powder funnel with alcohol.

Ultrasonic cleaning

I have found that some items respond well to ultrasonic cleaning, including the shell plate, the powder measure with the plastic parts removed, the station one locator, and dies. Ultrasonic cleaning is not mentioned in the owners' manual (that I can find). Ultrasonic cleaning removes oil, so anything that can rust will. I haven't had any rust problems with these parts. Your mileage may vary.

Switching to poly-coated bullets has eliminated the need to clean the seating and crimping die inserts periodically. If you use lead bullets, these need to be cleaned of bullet lube, or build-up will start seating the bullets deeper.

Keeping tight parts tight

Cleaning and lubricating keeps moving parts moving. The other problem is when parts that are supposed to not move do. For example, when you set the machine up for a caliber you know to tighten the shell plate bolt so the shell plate moves freely but no more. With the accessories I have on mine that means about 1/4" from tight. If it is looser than that by much you get high primers, and often station one doesn't line up and the round doesn't get inserted properly. Primers that look okay but won't allow your revolver cylinder to rotate are not good. Primers that go click in the rifle instead of bang are not good. Make sure you tighten the setscrew to hold that bolt in place. Otherwise the shell plate will either work itself loose and give you high primers and crushed cases at station



the other half of Unique Tek's Loaded Round Counter.
This unit is placed on the crimping die. It has a magnet in the bottom to hold it in place. When the round pushes the rod up...

one, or it will rotate tight and drag. If it starts dragging you will eventually figure out the problem and fix it. If it works loose you might not notice the high primers until you've loaded a few hundred rounds.

Accessories

I bought nearly everything Dillon has for the 650, the electric case feeder, aluminum roller handle, strong mount (I can't use it in the trailer because of lack of ceiling height), low powder sensor, bullet tray, powder check system, and machine cover. I also use the RF100 primer tube filler. If I weren't out of storage room, I would have two, one for small primers, one for large. It, too, needs frequent cleaning with alcohol.

Additionally I have tried a lot of aftermarket accessories and use several. I tested several in the [February 2015 Cowboy Chronicle](#).

Tested were: "Skylight" LED Lighting kit from <http://inlinefabrication.com/>, Unique Tek's 650 Spent Primer Chute (<http://www.uniquetek.com>) and the similar ones from DillonUpgrades.com (<http://dillonupgrades.com>), and XL650 Missed Live Primer Upgrade (Ski Jump Fix) from DillonUpgrades.com. I also liked Inline Fabrication's

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .



10

When the round pushes the round up a magnet in the rod causes the counter to advance by 1.

“Factory” Dillon Bullet Tray Mount and their Bin Barrier (similar item available from Unique Tek) and the [Dillon XL 650 Premium Performance Improvements Kit](#), which was available only on eBay.

More Accessories

Since then some new accessories have come out:

Unique Tek Live Primer Chute. This solves the same problem that the DillonUpgrades.com unit does, but it doesn’t have a little catch bottle. Pulling one or two primers from this is easier than unscrewing the little bottle, but if you ignore the primer in the bottle it won’t fly out when you hit the shell plate with compressed air to get rid of spilled powder. These two items are a matter of choice. They both work.

If you use semi-wadcutters in your Wild Bunch 1911 you’ll want to check out Unique Tek’s bullet seat stem for SWC and FWC for Dillon dies.

Unique Tek also has a **LRC Loaded Round Counter.** This is the latest effort to have a loaded

round counter for the Dillon. It’s one of those things that sounds easy but isn’t necessarily. The Unique Tek LRC is an item that it takes longer to read the instructions than to install it. If you use Dillon’s crimping die, it works very well. Using it with Lee Factory Crimp Dies requires modifications I haven’t tried, so I only use it with Dillon crimp dies. The pictures tell the story.

A really neat and useful item is a **Casefeed Stop** for a Dillon XL650 made by ST Engineering and sold by [cowboybullets.com](#). It’s a paltry \$15. The picture shows how to use it. Now when I want to do something without having brass continue to feed into the shell plate I just drop this in place and take it out when I’m done. It is more useful than you think.

(Continued on page 34)



11

Unique Tek on the left (Zinc Dichromate Plated), ST Engineering on the right (stainless steel), 1" and 1-1/8" 12-point box end combination wrenches.

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 33)



Wrench fits closely-spaced die lock rings,
One of these wrenches is a must have.

Die wrenches

Both Unique Tek and ST Engineering make a 12-point combination 1" and 1-1/8" box end wrench for working on dies that are usually hard to get to with most wrenches. The Unique Tek model is Zinc Dichromate Plated and the ST Engineering model is stainless steel. If you have one, you don't need the other, but you need one.

Color-Coding your Dillon:

You need six ¼-ounce bottles of Testor's enamel paint (Hobby Shop), six different colors. And you need a bag of disposable fine tip brushes (Harbor Freight). (Or you can clean one brush several times.)

You might say, "I don't need that. I know every screw by heart." Okay, in that case don't do it. It's not like I'm getting a commission.

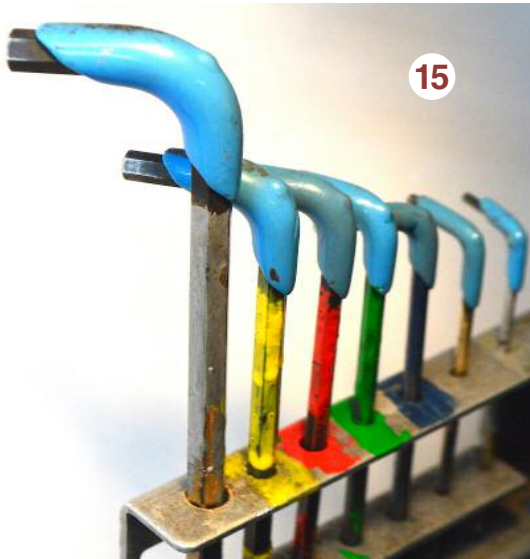
You only need six colors for seven wrenches

Dispatches From Camp Baylor ...



13

A really cheap trick, requiring only a few bottles of Testor's enamel model paint and some brushes. For each wrench check every socket head. Those that fit that wrench, paint them the same color. Then paint the wrench.



Wrenches painted different colors for quick recognition. Just match colors.

because the biggest and smallest can use the same color, or no color at all, and Captain Obvious adds that you won't confuse the biggest one with the smallest.

I've been using the 650 for 17 years and I still find the color-key useful.

I didn't devise all of these hints and tips myself. I got a lot of good tips from BrianEnos.com and several other places I can't remember. I think I came up with the color-coding myself. 🐾



14

Here we see three different colored sockets.

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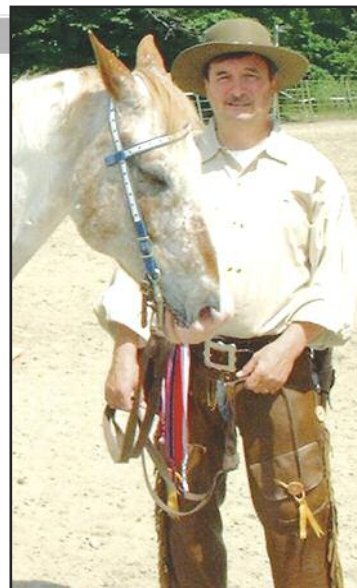
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Guns & Gear

THE CAPGUN KID RIDES Grandma Bea and Matt Dillon's Gun

By *The Capgun Kid*, SASS #31398



The Capgun Kid,
SASS #31398



Yup... Grandma Bea bought me my first Mattel outfit in 1957.

For that matter, Roy Rogers and Paladin's Guns. Now, those are kind of hard dots to connect, so let me fill in a few. Between the ages of five and nine I would leave the rolling prairie of Bethpage, Long Island and stay with Grandma for a week in July. Our new neighborhood, loosely categorized as Levittown, was a series of small plots and houses built for the guys who won World War II—more cement and roadway than grass where the trees were about an inch thick. So I got to go from a plot as far away from cowboys as you could get into a city area where there was virtually no grass at all. Grandma Bea lived in St. Albans and then Glendale, New York, probably not far from Ralph and Alice Kram-

den and The Brooklyn Dodgers.

Dad would load me up with about five dollars, which was about a year's wages for a kid back then. Since Grandma Bea thought I was a prince who could do no wrong, this was the only sequence in my early childhood where I could get up and watch *The Roy Rogers Show* on Saturday morning and then *Gunsmoke* and *Have Gun Will Travel* late Saturday night. Roy would be zipping down a road on Trigger, Matt would again win the shootout, and Paladin would draw and recite at the beginnings of their shows. Knock down a



One of the easiest rigs to shoot with for smooth draw, safe handling, securing the gun and sheer comfort.

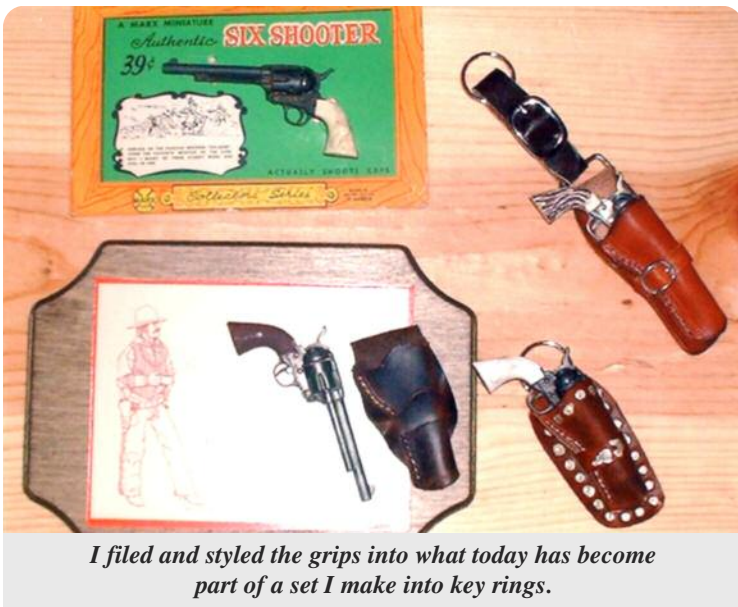
The Capgun Kid Rides . . .



They were part of a series of capgun minis and a craft kid could do a lot with them.

Snickers and maybe some Bosco (a combination NEVER offered at home) and a kid was in TV Heaven. Having been both, only now do I appreciate the indulgences and disciplines of being a parent and a grandparent.

There were only two connections to the armaments of my heroes; I got to see them on TV or I



I filed and styled the grips into what today has become part of a set I make into key rings.

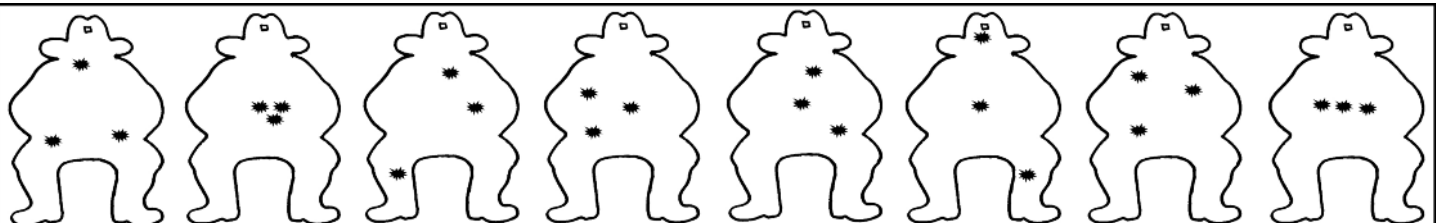


One of the many photo's on the web that pop up with a simple search.

could go down to the local five and dime (either Kresge's or Woolworth) and buy some Marx Miniature capguns. They looked real and were about four inches long and had a set of white plastic grips with a ginormous steer's head on them. They were part of a series of capgun minis and a craft kid could do a lot with them. That was a marked difference between them and most other capguns, some of which bore no resemblance to a Colt at all, even with your cowboy hero's signature on them. The jeweled holsters... well, they were jeweled holsters.

If you've been part of Cowboy Action Shooting™ for more than one or two matches then you must have heard some old-timers talking about Roy, Matt and whatever-his-first-name-was. His card said "Wire Paladin" and had a four-note riff every time he dropped it in an episode. Their shows are accessible through Cable or Satellite. You might also have

(Continued on page 38)



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The Capgun Kid Rides . . .

(Continued from page 37)



All I ever wanted to see was his TV rig.

heard how the Roy Rogers Museum folded and all the stuff got sold. Maybe some guy was talking about an article on the absurdity of Paladin's "Hamilton with a one ounce trigger pull," or how ragged James Arness' rig got over the years. At least I hope you hear that, because the heritage is the real driver behind the whole Cowboy Action Shooting™ thing.

I tallied up all the gunbelts I ever made, including Capgun Rigs for the collectors, and it came out to about two hundred and small change. Maybe fifty or sixty were for shooters. None of them are exact replicas of the old rigs. Dillon and Paladin Rigs belong to Arvo Ojala (the guy who gets shot at the opening of

the *Gunsmoke* episodes) and the Roy Rogers Rigs are legacies of Bolin/Gilmore/Nudie. I consider their ownership of those rigs sacred, so I build them in what I describe to my clients as "Neighborhood Plays."

When we finally made it to the Roy Rogers Museum in Branson Missouri, I found out Roy had about a dozen sixguns that he'd use in his rodeos, stage and movie/TV performances. All I ever wanted to see was his TV Rig (there were at least two) and I was astounded they were in the glass cases in the museum. I dunno where Dillon's and Paladin's rigs ended up because the rigs in museums are counterpointed by all the articles that have been written indicating they are in private collectors' hands. My guess is there

were several rigs and I refuse to believe those guys ever used those one-piece iron replicas that were always stuck in extra's gunbelts because they looked okay on camera.

It's actually fun going on the net and doing a search for the rigs and the guns. And there's a big picture book out entitled *Guns Of The Gunfighters* by Doc O'Meara, Krause Publications, that has its own pictures and versions of what happened to the pieces. If you like Westerns, you oughta buy this book.

Now, if I refuse to infringe on the original patterns, I consider the Holy Grail of Kid-dom of the nineteen and fifties fair game. Mattel came out with the Fanner Fifty and Marshal rig that I have written so much about. They dominated the commercial airwaves around Christmas (yup... Grandma Bea bought me my first Mattel outfit in 1957), yet a venture into their website has them running for cover and back peddling away from today's dirty word (guns) and hiding behind Barbie and Ken. When you try to procure some documentation from them at their marketing department they do everything short of hanging up on you.

Matt Dillon and Paladin are generally considered to have carried real Colt seven-and-a-half-inch barrels, and Roy had just about everything. He

The Capgun Kid Rides . . .



Paladin would draw and recite at the beginning of his show.

probably knew more about guns than both of them combined. Roy would once in a while spin his gun and had a rig that was tough for a kid to take his eyes off of. Neither Dillon nor Paladin spun and indicated more than once that they never really had an affinity for their guns. Arness would once in a while have trouble putting his gun back after stocking Boot Hill with a fresh soul and Richard Boone had this absurd draw and fire posture that probably would have gotten him laughed to death by the real Pistoleers of the West.

But you gotta love them anyway. I did. Saturday at Grandma Bea's was among the best childhood memories I have because I could get up early and stay up late and watch 'em all. So I built my first rigs at Grandma's. She had a new couch made before I got there in '56 and had 5" x 7" samples of Naugahyde and vinyl and leather. The obese man with the sweet smelling pipe who ran the hobby store on Myrtle Avenue was more than willing to sell me a couple of small bottles of brown and tan paint and Woolworth stocked not only the Marx Miniatures but also a small sewing kit and some

heavy duty needles. Away I went. I filed and styled the grips into what today has become part of a set I make into key rings with the miniature holsters. Grandma Bea thought I was a Genius but all Dad wanted to know was whether or not I was doing the homework he assigned me.

Bringing my Uberti's to the range, however, was another matter. One of the first things I learned in my first year of shooting was the Bolin/Gilmore B-Western Rig such as Roy wore was a little impractical to use for competition. I was not about to line my holsters with metal and I never liked the extreme drop in the belts made popular by the adult westerns of the fifties and sixties, even though Marshal Dillon and Paladin wore them week after week.

About five years ago I learned that one of the easiest rigs to shoot for smooth draw, safe handling, securing the gun, and sheer comfort was, of all things, my Mattel Marshal rig. I willfully stole the patterns from a beat up old sample that I cut up. I don't sell this puppy, but now it's all I want to shoot with. Then there are my key rings...

Don't get me started on John Wayne guns and rigs. Don't shoot yore eye out, kid. 🐶



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*The Jersey Kid,
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By The Jersey Kid, SASS #287 Life Regulator

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- Reshape, smooth and polish the feed ramp.
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- Rework the magazine catch and release action.
- Install a 15-pound Wolff Variable Power recoil spring which helped with the moderate loads I use.
- Re-shape the hammer nose to relieve pressure and ease action.
- They also tested each one of the five



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expertise of Kirkpatrick and rolls it into a beautiful competitive Cowboy Action rig. Built for speed, the new Long Hunter features hand molding for a perfect fit, rolled-out edges for smooth re-holstering and exposed trigger guard with cut-down front for quick first shots. The extra-wide molded skirt is designed for comfort and stability and the slight drop with eight-degree muzzle-forward cant allows you to draw the revolver without breaking your wrist at an uncomfortable angle. Aside from the functional design, it is one great looking rig.



Long Hunter Shooting Supplies • Wild Bunch . . .

magazines I sent to ensure a smooth operation. It was such a pleasure to shoot the slicked up 1911 and if it had not been for a squib load on the last stage (and the first round in a series that included four magazine changes) I might have been able to repeat my previous year's win. I know we've all been there!

Just to remind you, the action work performed by LHSS on single actions includes widening the rear sight notch and thinning the hammer so it does not drag at all. Internally the springs are replaced, the moving parts properly honed, the forcing cone is re-cut to 11 degrees and the trigger pull is lightened. But LHSS's action work on long guns might actually be more impressive than their work on handguns, as they are by far among the slickest rifles I've ever had the pleasure to fire.

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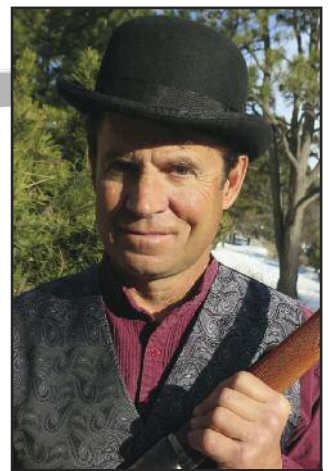
**** Thank you for Fall Fandango, Dollar Bill. RIP ****

History

THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION



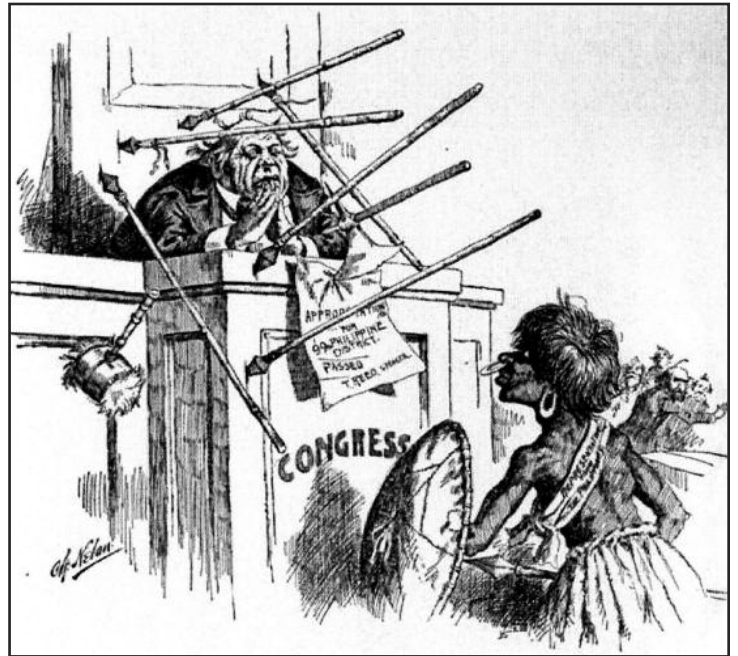
By Big Dave, SASS #55632



Big Dave, SASS #55632



News that American soldiers were using the "water cure" to obtain information horrified many Americans.



Political cartoon shows how many Americans felt about the acquisition of the Philippines and also reveals American ignorance of Filipino culture.

The Spanish-American War was fought on both sides of the globe. The conflict started because of America's objection to Spain's attempt to end an insurrection in Cuba, and though the bulk of the fighting occurred in Cuba, the war included a naval battle in the South Pacific near Manila. As a result of that battle, the U.S. acquired the Philippines as part of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the war in April 1898. Two other former Spanish territories, Guam in the Pacific and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean, also became American territories. The war against Spain was over in a matter of months, with relatively few American casualties and was nicknamed "the splendid little war."

The first battle of the Spanish-American War was fought near Manila Bay, which was about as far away as you could get from Cuba. Once war between the U.S. and Spain became inevitable, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, had sent the U.S. Asiatic Squadron toward the Philippines in order to pressure Spain. On May 1, 1898, less than two weeks after war had been de-

clared, Commodore George Dewey destroyed the Spanish Pacific Fleet in one of the most one-sided victories in the history of naval warfare. Dewey's ships were armored battleships while the Spanish ships were obsolete vessels better suited for a different era. The battle was like going "fishing" at Sea World with dynamite and hand grenades. When the Battle of Manila Bay was over, most of the Spanish Pacific Fleet was under water. Spanish resistance in the Philippines rapidly collapsed.

Like the Cubans, the Filipinos had rebelled against Spanish rule earlier in the 1890's. Dewey made contact with the insurrectionists and made some vague suggestions that if they cooperated with the Americans, the Philippines would become independent after the war with Spain was over. However,

The Philippine Insurrection . . .

once the Treaty of Paris was signed and the war ended, the U.S. annexed the Philippines.

Dewey's assurances about Philippine independence had been intentionally vague. During the battle against the Spanish Pacific Fleet, a squadron of German warships was close by. Imperial Germany had already claimed territory in the South Pacific, and it is more than probable that the German Navy, under the pretext of protecting German citizens and German property in Manila, would have occupied that city if the Americans didn't do so first. As it stood, Dewey and the German Admiral Otto von Diederichs had a rather tense exchange when the Germans ignored Dewey's blockade of Manila Bay. An exasperated Dewey asked Diederichs that if he wanted war, "he certainly could have it." A British squadron was in the area as well. When the British ship *Immortalite* pulled up beside Dewey's ship with its band playing the "Star Spangled Banner," the German squadron decided to leave the area. (What a great scene that must have been!) It didn't take a genius to assume that without an American presence, the Philippines would become part of the German Empire.

Although the Filipinos expected to become independent once the war with Spain was over, it wasn't going to happen. Once Spain was defeated in Cuba, the U.S. crawled out of the proposal for an independent Philippine Republic. At the Treaty of Paris, which was signed on December 10, 1898, the Spanish government ceded all of the Philippine Islands to the United States in exchange for twenty million dollars. Not surprisingly, the Filipinos felt betrayed. Some Americans were shocked that the McKinley government had done this. It seemed strange that we suddenly had acquired territory in the Pacific as a result of a war fought mostly in Cuba. If the war against Spain was fought to make sure Cuba became independent, why were we annexing the Philippines?

Back in America, President McKinley explained the situation in a speech to a church group: "We could not give them (the Philippines) back to Spain—that would be cowardly and dishonorable...There was nothing left for us to do but take them all and to educate the Filipinos and by God's grace to do the very best by them, as our fellowmen for whom Christ also died." At this point McKinley didn't realize that most of the Filipinos had been Christians for several centuries.



Emilio Aguinaldo became one of the leaders of the insurrection. He was captured by Americans in a risky operation.



George Dewey's victory over the Spanish Pacific Fleet at the Battle of Manila Bay led to the United States' acquisition of the Philippines when the war with Spain was over.

There were less altruistic reasons for taking the Philippines. The islands were close to China, and this would help strengthen our trade with a potentially huge market. Also, the U.S. would gain a naval base close to the Asian mainland. In addition, more than a few Americans thought it was high time for the U.S. to join Europe in spreading the benefits of Western Civilization. Finally, it really seemed if we didn't take the Philippines, somebody else—Germany or Britain—would do it.

The annexation touched off a storm of debate. The opponents of annexation argued that it went against our principles: we would be joining Europe in the imperialism game. Moreover, annexation would be costly and would possibly lead to war with some other world power with aspirations in the region. Famous people like Mark Twain and Andrew Carnegie were

(Continued on page 44)

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The Philippine Insurrection . . .

(Continued from page 43)

strenuously against the annexation of the Philippines. Many Democrats as well as Republicans opposed it. The Treaty of Paris (1898) barely made it through the Senate.

On January 1, 1899, the Filipinos, who still didn't know what was going to happen, had declared the First Philippine Republic with Emilio Aguinaldo as president. (Aguinaldo had been a leader of the insurrection against Spain.) A little over a month later, when it was obvious the Republic was not going to be recognized by the U.S., fighting erupted between Filipino insurrectionists and American troops. It was to last more than three years and turned out to be more costly in terms of men, money, and effort than the Spanish American War. 70,000 American troops were sent to end the uprising and 4,000 of those troops died. Between 12,000 and 20,000 Filipino combatants died and more than 200,000 civilians died from disease. This was by no means a "splendid little war"—it was marked by atrocities on both sides.

The fighting was similar to the type of fighting that characterized most of the Vietnam War. It consisted of sending patrols into the jungle in search of enemy soldiers, securing a "safe" perimeter, and wondering all the while if the people who are smiling at you during the day are going to cut your throat or shoot you at night. There was no discernable "front line." Neither side paid particular attention to the "rules" of warfare.

American soldiers employed the "water cure" in order to obtain information. This was a method of interrogation where large amounts of water were forced down a prisoner's throat. It wasn't as sophisticated as water boarding, but it did the trick. A soldier from the 32nd Nebraska Volunteer Infantry described the "water cure" in an ill-advised letter home:

"Now, this is the way we give them the water cure," he explained. "Lay them on their backs, a man standing on each hand and each foot, then put a round stick in the mouth and pour a pail of water in the mouth and nose, and if they don't give up pour in another pail. They swell up like toads. I'll tell you it is a terrible torture."

The letter was published in the *Omaha World-Herald* in May 1900 and was later forwarded to some newspapers in the Northeast. People were horrified to learn that Americans were acting in this



It took three years of fighting to end the Philippine Insurrection.

way. An investigation ensued, it became a campaign issue in the Presidential Election of 1900, but McKinley was reelected anyway. Fortunately for him, the fighting was starting to wind down by the next year.

Through a daring ruse, American Brigadier General Frederick Funston was able to capture Emilio Aguinaldo, the leader of the Filipino insurgents. In March 1901, Funston persuaded (perhaps "cured") a group of turncoat insurrectionists into leading him to a remote village where Aguinaldo had set up his headquarters. Funston, who had posed as a captive with the turncoats as "guards" was taken before Aguinaldo when he suddenly produced a revolver. Aguinaldo was given an offer to surrender that he couldn't refuse and continue to live. By then pretty much everybody was sick of the fighting anyway. Thousands of Filipino civilians had been relocated to "safe zones" where they couldn't aid the insurrectionists. Unfortunately the zones weren't safe from disease and many of them died.

The capture of Aguinaldo caused the fighting to wind down, but it didn't really end for several years. There was an ugly incident later in 1901 in which Brigadier General Jacob Smith ordered a reprisal after about 50 American soldiers were massacred on the remote island of Samar. "The interior of Samar must be made a howling wilderness," Smith said. There are no reliable records of how many Filipinos died when the United States regained control of the area. Smith was later court-martialed and forced into early retirement. Sporadic fighting continued but the insurrection was more or less over by 1902.

The first U.S. governor of the Philippines was

The Philippine Insurrection . . .

William Howard Taft. He proved to be a fair minded and popular figure and much of the credit for creating good relations with the Filipinos should go to him. Taft also headed a commission that investigated American war crimes. Though the findings resulted in only a few convictions, the fact that there even was an investigation helped to heal many bad feelings. It is unlikely that such a thing would have occurred if the Philippines had revolted against Imperial Germany—the Kaiser’s military took a dim view toward uprisings. If Britain had annexed the Philippines, it is also unlikely that they would have handled things any better than the U.S. did.

Does this make everything right? Perhaps not, but often the best way to look at history is to acknowledge that things could have been better, but they could also have been a whole lot worse. The annexation of the Philippines taught the U.S. to stay out of the imperialism game. Just because you acquire foreign territory, it doesn’t mean the people living there are going to be particularly happy about it. The annexation also opened a healthy debate about where America stood on colonies—because however you try to sugar coat it, the Philippines became a de facto American colony. To our credit, we never again annexed a foreign territory. Of course, it did not stop us from trying to influence the affairs of other countries.

There were lessons the U.S. didn’t learn from the experience. The Philippine Insurrection should have taught us that even if we

bring the benefits of good government and modernization to another culture, a lot of folks aren’t going to appreciate how those benefits were delivered. The U.S. did indeed “do the best (it) could” by the Filipinos, even though we ended up killing a lot of them in the process. Schools, hospitals, roads, naval bases, and a thriving trade were part of the deal. The Filipinos bravely resisted the Japanese during WWII: they didn’t buy into the promise of the “Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere” which was the euphemism for the Japanese Empire. In 1946, the islands became independent. At present, the Philippines are one of our staunchest allies, and are a prosperous nation, so our “best” couldn’t have been all that bad. The U.S. has, after all, made much worse mistakes that have had much worse outcomes when it should have known better.

To many people, this will seem like a contrived “happy ending.” I’m sure some of the descendants of the Filipinos and Americans who died in the conflict might argue otherwise. However, the ending to the Philippine Insurrection could have been a whole lot less fortunate. It could easily have become a quagmire for the U.S. and a drawn out nightmare for the Philippines. History doesn’t have a lot of optimal outcomes. (Or even clear lessons, for that matter.) It seems the best a nation can hope for is that it learns something from history at all and doesn’t repeat the same mistakes until it gets to the point where it can’t make another one.

President McKinley didn’t live
(Continued on page 46)

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*William Howard Taft became the first American territorial governor of the Philippines.
In this photo he attempts to look dignified astride a water buffalo.
Taft was a popular figure because of his wisdom and restraint.*

The Philippine Insurrection . . .

(Continued from page 45)

to see the end of the Philippine Insurrection. He was assassinated by an anarchist in September, 1901. It was under the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, McKinley's former vice president that the fighting in the Philippines came to an end. Roosevelt was convinced it was time for the U.S. to assume a greater role in foreign affairs. The Philippine Insurrection was a hint of some of the difficult and morally ambiguous situations that would come with our status as a world power.

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*Joe Fasthorse,
SASS #48769*

LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769



John Coffee “Jack” Hays was born at Little Cedar Lick in Tennessee on January 28, 1817. His uncle was Andrew Jackson. His grandfather fought in the revolutionary war. His father fought in the war of 1812. Jack moved to the Republic of Texas at the age of 19 and was



appointed a member of the Texas Rangers by Sam Houston. From 1836 until 1849, Hays led the Rangers on many hard-fought campaigns against the Comanche Indians. In 1840, Tonkawa Indian Chief Placido joined Hays and the Rangers in an endeavor to track down a massive Comanche War Party under the leadership of Chief Buffalo Hump. The war party had been on an extended killing raid that reached all the way from the ranches in West Texas to the cities on the Texas Coast. Hays’ posse caught up with the Comanches at Plum Creek, which resulted in the “Battle of Plum Creek.” The Indian warriors had a huge herd of horses and an enormous amount of captured plunder. Hays mustered his troops. “Yonder are the Indians, boys. And yonder are our horses. The Indians are strong, but we can lick ‘em. What do you say?” The Battle of Plum Creek was more of a running gunfight as the Comanches tried to hold on to their booty and get back to the safety of their camps on the Llano Estacado. In the end, the Indians did get away with their spoils and many of the stolen horses. In 1842, Hays commanded the force against the invasion from Mexico. He also fought in the Mexican-American War

and commanded a regiment of Texas Rangers at the Battle of Monterrey. Jack married Susan Calvert at Sequin, Texas in 1847. Two years later he was appointed the US Indian Agent for the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona. The following year, the married couple migrated to San Francisco County in California, where Jack was elected sheriff. Hays commanded a force of volunteer soldiers at the Second Battle of Pyramid Lake in 1860. John Coffee “Jack” Hays died in California on April 21, 1883. He is buried in Oakland, a city for which he was one of the founders. 📍

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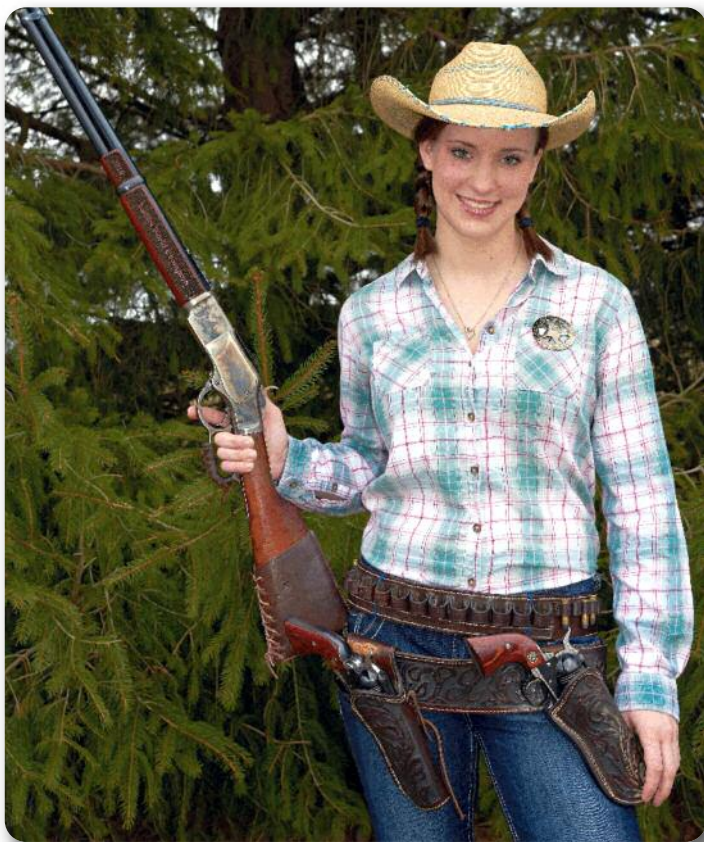
Scholarship Recipient 2015

Sage Chick, SASS #48454

Edited & Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



*Justice Lily Kate,
SASS #1000*



Howdy everyone, my name is Sarah Harp, better known as Sage Chick. To begin, I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone in the SASS community for your encouragement and support of my academic endeavors. This will be my last year to receive the scholarship, as I will earn my undergraduate degree in May 2016, and I am very grateful to each of you as well as the SASS Scholarship Foundation for helping to fund my education.

I live in central Ohio and shoot at various clubs around the state including Ohio Valley Vigilantes (Centerburg, OH), Tusco Long Riders (Midvale, OH), Firelands Peacemakers (Rochester, OH), Miami Valley Cowboys (Piqua, OH), and Big Irons (Middletown, OH). Our neighbor, Gray Hare (SASS #20821), got my dad, Rowdy Bishop (SASS #48453), and my older brother, Kilbourne Kid (SASS #35161) interested in Cowboy Action Shooting™ when I was seven years old. I tagged along to the matches

and helped pick up brass. But who wants to just pick up brass when you can shoot too? Consequently, I started competing in the matches when I was eight years old. After that it turned into a full family sport with my mom, Fowl Lady (SASS #85215) coming along as well. As my brother got a little older he became more competitive in the sport and I followed right behind. For about six years we spent our family summer vacations traveling out west to various matches, including END of TRAIL. We have been involved in the sport for well over fourteen years now and it has been nothing but a wonderful experience. My favorite part is not just the competition, but also the people around whom I get to be. I have met an innumerable amount of outstanding people in this sport and they have all really become like a worldwide second family to me. Growing up, I could not have asked for a better way to spend time with my family and friends, and the memories I have now (and continue to make) are priceless.

As I get older, the “real world” sometimes gets in the way of my shooting plans. However, I consider myself blessed to be pursuing a career about which I am passionate, and am grateful for your help in getting me there. Growing up on a farm and working alongside my mom and grandpa, I have developed a strong appreciation for the agricultural community and look forward to serving them as a veterinarian in the future. I will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Ohio State University. I am currently involved in the application process of getting into veterinary school at OSU to become a food-animal veterinarian and Lord-willing will start four more years there in the fall.

I continue to shoot as much as I can, and Cowboy Action is something that will always be a part of my life. I encourage each of you to get your families involved in this sport; it is a great way to spend time with spouses, children, and grandchildren. As a young person growing up shooting Cowboy Action, I learned more from the sport than how to safely handle and shoot a firearm. I also learned leadership, discipline, mental concentration and stamina, as well as how to win and lose. Each of

(Continued on next page)

Scholarship Recipient • Sage Chick, SASS #48454 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

these traits will benefit me in my life and career, and I am thankful to the SASS community for the lessons they have taught me.

I want to encourage each of you to be involved in your community and do what you can in order to keep our

country a place where we can freely enjoy the shooting sports. When I have a family of my own, I want to still have the freedom to take my kids shooting, too. I hope to see each of you out on the range, and I want to once again thank all of you for your overwhelming support in both my shooting endeavors and my academic ambitions. 🐾

Arming Against Tyranny and Targeting Misconceptions

By Sage Chick, SASS #48454

Edited & Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

In the United States today, gun control dominates as both a political and social point of controversy. The current laws in affect receive criticism from both sides of the issue, with some groups advocating for firmer gun control and others promoting more comprehensive gun rights. A historical approach to disarmament will assist in explaining why the government would want to make it harder for its citizens to own a firearm. Whether a campaign for oppressive power or simply a misinterpretation of facts, the possible objectives behind gun control legislation can certainly be debated.

Taking a critical look at past governments that sought to disarm their citizens will provide valuable insight into explaining current legislative activities. As George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” In 1931, Germany’s Weimar Republic introduced registration and confiscation of firearms in order to keep weapons from the hands of non-law-abiding individuals. In 1933, a group of these individuals led by Adolf Hitler obtained power and established the National Socialist regime. Hitler’s own gun control act would not follow until 1938. Germany provides only one of many examples where gun control preceded tyranny. Others include the Soviet Union, China, and Cambodia. Without forcing direct comparison, two lessons can be learned from this powerful example. First and most obviously, a disarmed citizenry is left at the mercies of whatever party obtains power. Second, gun control may not always be introduced with ma-

licious intentions towards the general public. The fact remains, however, that the right to bear arms protects all other rights from usurpation. In words commonly attributed to Thomas Jefferson, “The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

As in the example from Germany, gun control may initially be introduced with honorable purposes. Whether ulterior agendas exist behind current legislative campaigns is a matter of personal opinion. Many advocates of gun control insist that implementing registration, bans, or confiscation will reduce crime. However, this belief has been disproved in cities like Chicago, where crime rate has actually dropped since concealed carry was permitted in 2014. According to an article in *The Washington Times*, instances of robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle theft have all decreased at least twenty percent since last year. The homicide rate was also lower than it has been in more than fifty years. Similar responses were observed within other states as well.

The best way to counter gun control legislation is to educate the public about firearms safety and the true link between guns and violent crime. Introducing the youngest generation to positive firearm activities such as Cowboy Action Shooting™ and 4-H shooting sports programs is imperative. This will ensure that future government leaders will not want to make it harder for citizens to own firearms, which will ultimately preserve not only Second Amendment rights but all others as well. 🐾

Trail Markers

West Fargo SASS #1910 Life June 5, 1944 - May 3, 2016

By his sister Ms. Charmin Char, SASS #1935



Wes Flowers, aka “The Gunfighter,” lost his battle with COPD and other ailments on Tuesday, May 3rd while at home with his wife Gail in Cochise, AZ. Now he is in the presence of our Lord with no pain and a whole body.

Wes served in the US Army and fought in Vietnam. With the help of his officers, we were able to ship his fast draw gun to him. When time permitted, he would entertain with his gun skills and even performed with Martha Raye. Wes was a showman and enjoyed entertaining others with his knowledge of handling a gun and viewers were surprised by some of the stunts he could do. While in the Army, he received the Marksman Badge and Sharpshooter Badge, which was no surprise.

Wes was in several shooting sports, including World Fast Draw Association, Cowboy Fast Draw, SASS®, and the NRA, all of which he was a life member. He also appeared or was the gun coach in several films. Some movies he either starred in or assisted in were *Young Guns II* (weapons, gunsmith,



and gun coach), *Four Eyes & Six Guns* (gun coach, double featured), *Posse* (gun coach, double, gunsmith, featured), and *Beverly Hills Cop II* (gun coach, double). On television, he was associated with *Young Riders* (gun coach, featured, double), *Gunsmoke III* (gun coach, featured, double), *Legends* (gun coach, double), and *The Magnificent 7* (gun coach, double). Wes, along with some of his fast draw friends, starred in two video games which were *Last Bounty Hunter* and *Fast Draw Showdown*.

After entering back into civilian life, he started competing in Fast Draw again and won two contests in Tombstone at the Helldorado celebration that was held every year. Wes wanted to go more for speed, not a win, but we were shooting for money. With Fast Draw, many miles were traveled going to contests around the states. As of today he has 50 years of Fast Draw behind him. It was soon discovered there was a need for a gunsmith in the shooting world, so Wes took classes to learn. He preferred Rugers and became known as “The Ruger Man.” He was instrumental in developing the original short stroke procedure for Rugers, both three-screw and the new action with transfer bar.

He found out about Cowboy Action Shooting™ and had to join and be a life member. Due to health problems, he didn’t get to shoot as much as he would have liked.

He was a vendor at many shoots, including Bordertown, Winter Range and END of TRAIL, where he would help out a shooter if something happened to their guns. He would share a trailer or tent with Jim Bowie and Sassy Lassy.

He went to several SASS conventions while they were in Las Vegas and had a class to teach how to break down the Ruger, clean it and put it back together without any leftover parts.

He was a member of and shot with Las Vaqueros, Cochise Gunfighters, and Buscaderos, all in Arizona.

Some of the matches he was able to shoot were:
2008 – He won the True Grit award at END of

(Continued on next page)



Trail Markers

Sure-Shot Shirley SASS #83131

November 2015—At the age of 84, Shirley Salter was a long-time member of the Valley Regulators of Courtenay, BC. After an arm injury a few years ago, her shooting came to an end, but her involvement with the club carried on. She could always be relied upon to help out running the Boomtown Saloon or Mercantile during the club's Outdoor Show, greeting eager visitors with her trademark smile and wicked sense of humor.



shooter and joked that after having moved from her house into an apartment building she would have to get a violin case to discreetly move her long guns into her car. She shot in the Grande Dame category.

Shirley's involvement in Cowboy Action Shooting™ started her husband passed away and she inherited his guns. She loved being a

Shirley is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. We will miss her. 🐾



West Fargo • (continued from previous page)

TRAIL; this was his prized award.

2007 – Shootout 5 Dogs Creek – California St. Championship – Outlaw Trail, Founders Ranch.

2006 – Bordertown.

2005 – Founders Ranch Invitation – Randolph County Ruckas – Territorial Prison Breakout (also 2004 and 2006) – Landrun, Guthrie, OK.

Donations may be made to

<https://www.garysinisefoundation.org>

or Vietnam Veterans at www.vva.org.

We will miss Wes' smile and his hearty laughter; he was a true friend to many. 🐾

William "Kit" Carson SASS #6261

William Arthur Taylor, who went to our Lord March 3, 2016, was an avid collector of Revolutionary War and Civil War memorabilia, as well as Old West and military firearms. In addition other accomplishments, Bill was co-founder and director for the Sonlight Charity for Ukrainian orphans and as such spent much of his time teaching and helping Ukrainian children.



He was known for his generous heart and straight-shooting attitude. He will be missed. 🐾



Meadow Biscuit Slim Thomas J. Landry SASS #76959

November 19, 1951 - April 5, 2016



Articles



Palaver Pete,
SASS Life/Regulator
#4375

THE NORTHERN ROAD TO Cody WYOMING

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375

Over the years, Palaver Pete has written articles about his travels to and from various Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches. These articles received many favorable comments and the demand for more was inspiring. So, to renew old memories, we are reprinting Palaver's articles.

The more we drive this wonderful country of ours, the more we realize how beautiful it really is. Our drive to Cody, to attend the Wild West Shootout and to visit the William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody Historical Museum was another wide-eyed awakening of this extraordinary beauty. We drove up the backside of Oregon to Yakima, Washington, where some of the best Mexican food this side of San Miguel de Allende is cooked. Surrounded by vineyards and hop fields, Yakima hosts a large population of Mexican people who work in the orchards and vineyards during the day and cook excellent meals in the evening. These people have captured the hearts, minds and stomachs of most residents of eastern Washington. Yakima is definitely a culinary Mecca along the northern route to Cody. Any Mexican restaurant or food stand will do.

Shortly after crossing the Columbia River at Vantage, Washington there is a monument to the wild horses of the west. Look up on the ridge and there the

horses stand. A scenic view area sits below the statues of the Wild Horses and if you turn around and face back across the river you can see evidence of prehistoric lava flows and petrified wood—reminders of nature's violence that shaped the area. The Columbia River, so the song goes, keeps on rolling—working its way to Astoria, Oregon and the Pacific Ocean. Roll on Columbia, and remember Lewis and Clark.

Along the route to Cody there are many ghost towns and towns that should be ghost towns. Old Town Ritzville, Washington is one of those heading toward the latter category. Efforts by the citizens to revitalize the old town have failed and buildings stand there unoccupied—reminders of the day when the outlaw named Grey Fox roamed the area. But Ritzville is too far off the super highway to survive. Someday it will be another Bodie, California and then, when that happens, the tourists will pour in and spend their dollars. But right now, walking through Ritzville is like waking through



This Monument to the Wild Horses of the West has a great impact on drivers crossing the Columbia River—a must see attraction.

The Northern Road To Cody Wyoming



A typical abandoned 1800s building in Ritzville.

the late 1800s, sans cowboys and gunfighters.

A quick drive through Spokane led us to Montana State Highway Number 2—perhaps the most deadly highway in America. Montana Highway Authorities remind travelers of the dangers of this highway by placing metal crosses alongside the roadway where people have crashed and died. We counted nearly 200 crosses before losing count. The Highway is indeed dangerous because the surrounding mountains and scenery are so beautiful and therefore very distracting. One keeps looking out the window instead of keeping both eyes on the road where they belong. The Bitter-root Mountains will do that to you, so beware. They should post signs reading, “try not to look at the scenery—it may be the last thing you see!”

Montana State Highway Number 2 leads to Glacier National Park—a well-kept secret among National Parks. Apparently Glacier seems to be too far off the beaten path to garner the number of visitors that Yosemite and Yellowstone pull in, but that won't last. Glacier, with its magnificent “Highway to the Sun,” is simply too beautiful and majestic to continue to avoid discovery—soon the crowds will gather, but right now it's a paradise for those who love natural beauty and solitude at the same time.

There are three Lodges at Glacier that rival log lodges anywhere in the world. Each has a Fireplace that eats six-foot logs and one can sit in front of those babies and stare and dream. My wife and I found it a perfect place to enjoy a martini or two before dinner, then return after dinner to fall asleep—yes, with so few people there, one can fall asleep and draw no attention at all!

Ah, but eventually one must leave the park and

the back road out leads to Great Falls, but first one must drive through the Nation of the Blackfeet. As we drove through the town of Blackfoot, a sense of the fear these awesome warriors brought upon our pioneers could be felt. Looking around the town, we also sensed that the Blackfeet are not quite as pacified as believed, and the white man's occupation of their land has not been totally forgiven—we saw not one smile. We were not quite sure why, but we both rolled-up our windows, locked the car doors, then proceeded to drive out of there as fast as the speed limit would allow.

Great Falls ain't so great anymore. Captured and corralled by white men, the Missouri River is not the wild torrent it was when steamboats slowly plied the dangerous waters. Now the main function of the river is to provide electrical energy, but reminders of the hardships our pioneers faced while settling the area are everywhere, including inside the many great antique shops that dot the area. Inside these shops, one can purchase everything from old time guns to horse-drawn plows, but the items that impressed us the most was the abundance of photographs depicting the hardships our pioneers endured. With good imagination, you could see your great grand-

(Continued on page 54)

THE SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY &
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THE 20th ANNUAL AMBUSH AT CAVERN COVE

The 2016 SASS Alabama State Championships
September 2nd-4th
Located near Grant, AL



Included in Shooter's Entry Fee
Friday Side Matches, 10 Stage Main Match
& Sunday Awards & Dinner

General Match Information:

- Posse assignments will be made August 12th. Applications received after that will be assigned as available.
- Must be a SASS member to shoot. All SASS rules apply. All SASS categories Accepted.
- Sunday Awards Banquet Included with Shooter's Entry

Match Fees:

- First Entry: \$115.00
- Spouse: \$80.00
- Young Guns & Buckaroos: \$35.00
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APPLICATION:

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CONTACT:

- Drake Robey, DrakeRobey@charter.net
- (256)481-3737

Please use **ONE APPLICATION PER SHOOTER** and send in spouse and junior with main entry. Our Registration deadline is August 12th, we will try to honor Posse requests received after **August 12th**, but you may be assigned to a posse as available. This is **not** a lost Brass Match.

The Northern Road To Cody Wyoming

(Continued from page 53)

parents in them—we did.

After Great Falls, we drove through Laurel, Montana (a very attractive, little town) where we had a Subway sandwich, and then headed south on Highway 310 into Cody. At last, here we are over-looking El Paso (oops, wrong passage—pardon us, Marty Robbins!). Nope, here we are at last, dropping down into Cody Country, home of the famous William F. Cody Museum and Cody's old Hotel Irma.

What can be said about Cody that hasn't already been said? Strap on your guns (really, and they can be loaded if you want) and head for the Hotel Irma. Try to forget the Museum for a while and have a beer while heeled. Shake your head in amazement, and see other Cowboys and Cowgirls doing the same thing. The Sheriff walks by and tips his hat—you order another beer. Don't worry, no one is breaking the law, and no one's challenging for the right to have the next dance with Felina! The Guns strapped on the sides of most patrons seemed to add a certain degree of safety, or shall we call it "a level playing field?"



We lost count after 200. A sad feeling indeed.

I didn't do too well at the match. I made the mistake of placing my shooting name of Palaver Pete in the 49er Category, which means all the shooters in that category are at least 49 years old. Now that I think about it, most of the shooters in Cowboy Action Shooting™ are 49 years of age or older, so I stupidly placed myself in the category where the most and the best shooters would be located. Oh well, after shooting five stages the first day, I realized if I just did my best and kept my cool I might place 13th out of the 15 shooters signed up for that category. I guess I figured right, because at the end of the shoot, my name was called as the 13th in a category of 15. Okay, I got it: when I get back to Oregon, I best head for the range and do a great deal of practicing.

After the match, we made our way to the Museum. Inside we discovered there are now five museums in one: The Buffalo Bill, the Plains Indians, Western Art,

(Continued on next page)





SASS Presents
SASS Virginia State
Championship
September 2nd, 3rd and 4th 2016

FRIDAY

- SIDE MATCHES (INCLUDING LONG RANGE)
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- 6 MAIN MATCH STAGES
- DINNER AT THE RANGE SPONSORED BY *THE COWBOY SHOP*. COOKING BY EASY DOES IT RANCH. GREAT RAFFLES AND ENTERTAINMENT TO BOOT.

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The Northern Road To Cody Wyoming



All the Lodges at Glacier are beautiful!

Natural Science, and last but certainly not least, the Firearms museum. I love old west firearms, but never have I been so burnt-out to seeing so many guns. Row after row after row, and then when you reach the end of the display room there's a sign on the wall that reads, "More Firearms downstairs..." Come on, give me a break, how many Colt Revolvers and Winchester Rifles can one see and not be satisfied? Oh well, all in all I can't say enough about the Cody Museum and Cody itself. Cody is the West—as it was in olden times and as it should be today, a wonderful city with wonderful people. Some cities in the west claim to be the "real west," but they are imposters. They have long ago lost the spirit of the west, but not Cody. Mark your calendars Pard, and block-out a date to visit Cody. You're a daisy if ya do! 🌻



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WHENEVER DANGER BECKONS, OR ADVENTURE CALLS, YOU'LL FIND DUSTY BALLEW AND HIS PARD GUMPTION JONES. THEIR BLAZING GUNS AND HARD-KNUCKLED FISTS ARE ON THE SIDE OF THOSE IN NEED OF HELP, AS THEY WANDER THROUGH THE RUGGED COUNTRY OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER!



STOP HIM!
STOP HIM,
HE'S GETTIN'
AWAY!

THERE AIN'T
A MAN LIVIN'
WHO CAN STOP
DUSTY BALLEW !!!

ART - AL CARRENO
STORY - I. WERSTEIN

DUSTY AND GUMPTION ARE BETWEEN ADVENTURES AGAIN, WHEN

DUSTY, DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I WAS FIRST SCOUT FOR COLONEL MILES WITH THE OLD FIFTH? WE WUZ FIGHTIN' THE BANNOCKS AND

STOP BATTING YOUR GUMS A MINUTE, GUMPTION. . . . AND CAST YOUR EYE ON THIS . . .

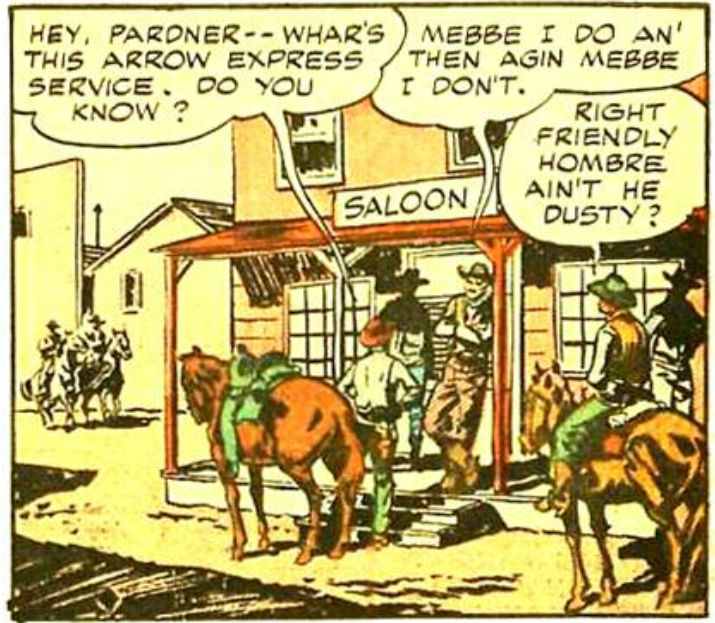
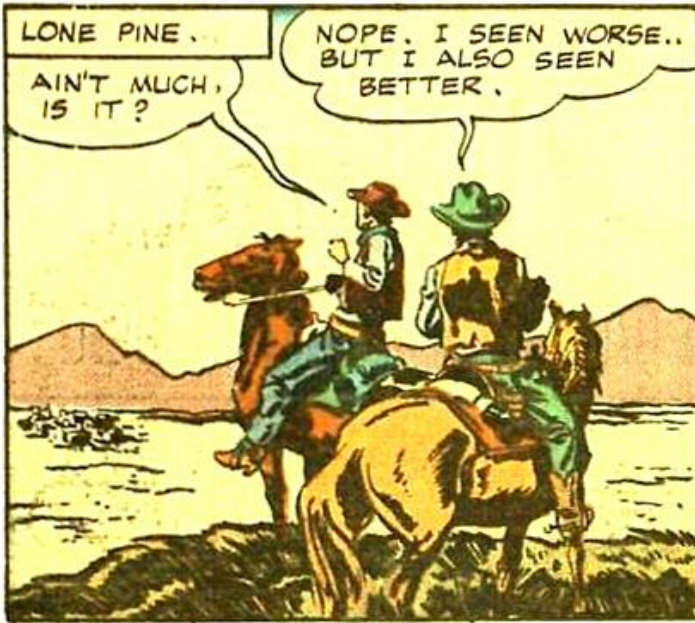


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RIDERS WHO CAN
TAKE IT! APPLY
ARROW EXPRESS
SERVICE, LONE
PINE, MONTANA.

RIDERS WHO CAN TAKE IT, HUH? RECKON THAT'S US!

PARDNER, YOU TOOK THEM WORDS RIGHT OUTEN MY MOUTH. LONE PINE --- HYAR WE COME!







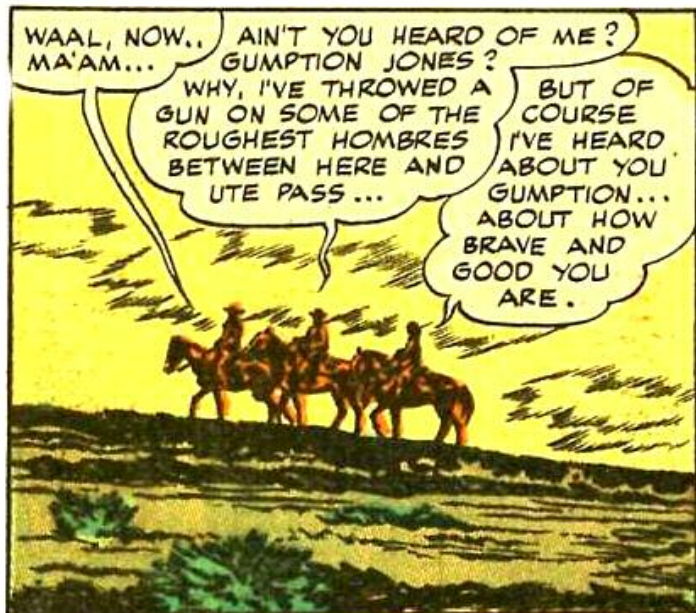
MISTER, THAT WAS A FINE PIECE OF SHOOTIN'. AIN'T EVERYONE WHO BUCKS JED HOOPER. HE WAS THE HOMBRE DOIN' THE TALKIN'.

MA'AM, HE'S A TINHORN...TALKS A GOOD FIGHT.. TALKS TOUGH... WORDS NEVER SCARED ME NONE ...OR MY PARD, EITHER.

YESIREE, MA'AM. DUSTY BALLEW AN' GUMPTON JONES AIN'T AFEARED OF NAWTHIN' LET ALONE TALK.



ARE...ARE YOU... DUSTY BALLEW... I'VE HEARD OF YOU!

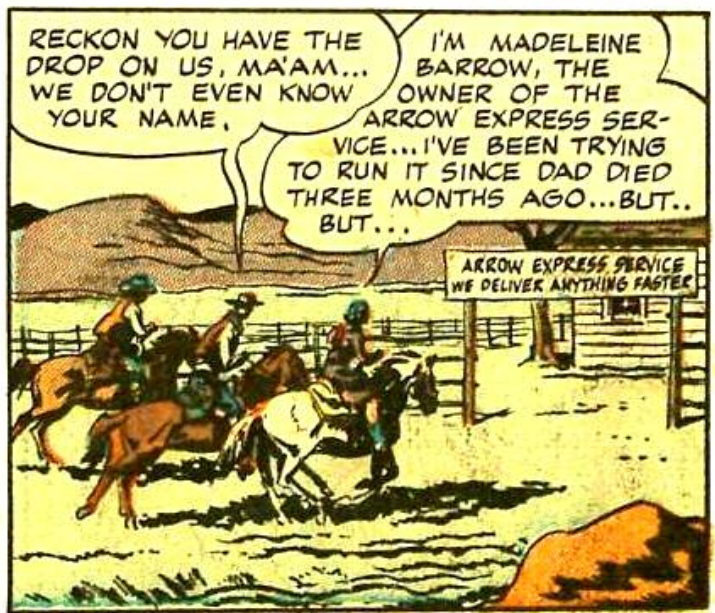


WAAL, NOW.. MA'AM...

AIN'T YOU HEARD OF ME? GUMPTON JONES?

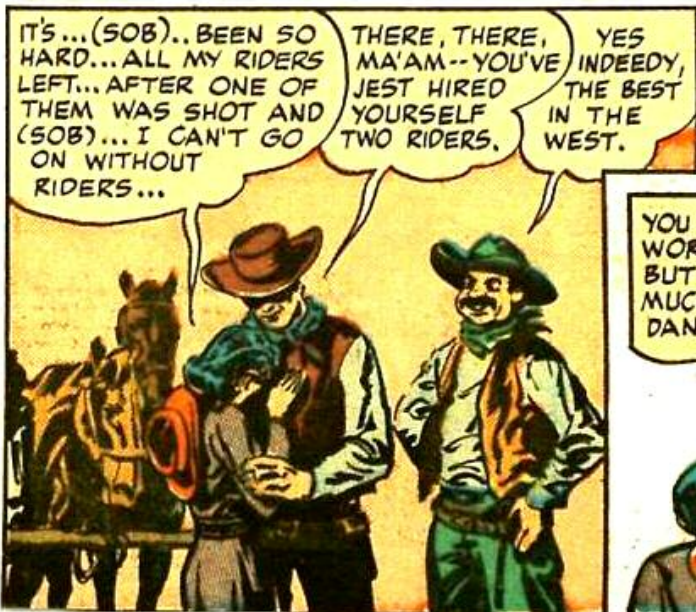
WHY, I'VE THROWN A GUN ON SOME OF THE ROUGHEST HOMBRES BETWEEN HERE AND UTE PASS ...

BUT OF COURSE I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU GUMPTON... ABOUT HOW BRAVE AND GOOD YOU ARE.



RECKON YOU HAVE THE DROP ON US, MA'AM... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

I'M MADELEINE BARROW, THE OWNER OF THE ARROW EXPRESS SERVICE...I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RUN IT SINCE DAD DIED THREE MONTHS AGO...BUT.. BUT...



IT'S...(SOB).. BEEN SO HARD...ALL MY RIDERS LEFT... AFTER ONE OF THEM WAS SHOT AND (SOB)... I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT RIDERS...

THERE, THERE, MA'AM--YOU'VE JUST HIRED YOURSELF TWO RIDERS.

YES INDEEDY, THE BEST IN THE WEST.

YOU MEAN...YOU'LL WORK FOR ME... BUT I CAN'T PAY MUCH AND....IT'S DANGEROUS



MA'AM... DANGER'S OUR MIDDLE NAME... AND WE NEVER FAILED TO HELP A DESERVIN' PERSON BECAUSE OF MONEY... BESIDES, I KNEW YOUR DAD... BILL BARROW WAS MARSHAL AT DODGE CITY WHEN I WAS A SHAVER. HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

A FEW MINUTES LATER... INSIDE THE EXPRESS OFFICE....

MA'AM, YOU SAID SOMEBODY SHOT ONE OF YOUR RIDERS. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHO IT WAS?

NO, DUSTY. BUT FOR A FEW MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SHOOTING, THERE WAS ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE ...A COUPLE OF HORSES WERE POISONED...AND THERE WAS A FIRE IN THE STABLES.

LOOKS TO ME LIKE SOMEBODY'S TRYIN' TO PUT YOU OUTEN BUSINESS.... I REMEMBER A TIME ON THE TEXAS BORDER WHEN ...

SAVE THE YARN, OLD TIMER.... SAVE THE YARN....

DAG NAB IT, DUSTY! YOU'RE ALLUS SHUTTIN' ME UP!

GOLLY, I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD LAUGH IN WEEKS.... YOU TWO ARE AS WELCOME AS THE SPRING.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN LONE PINE

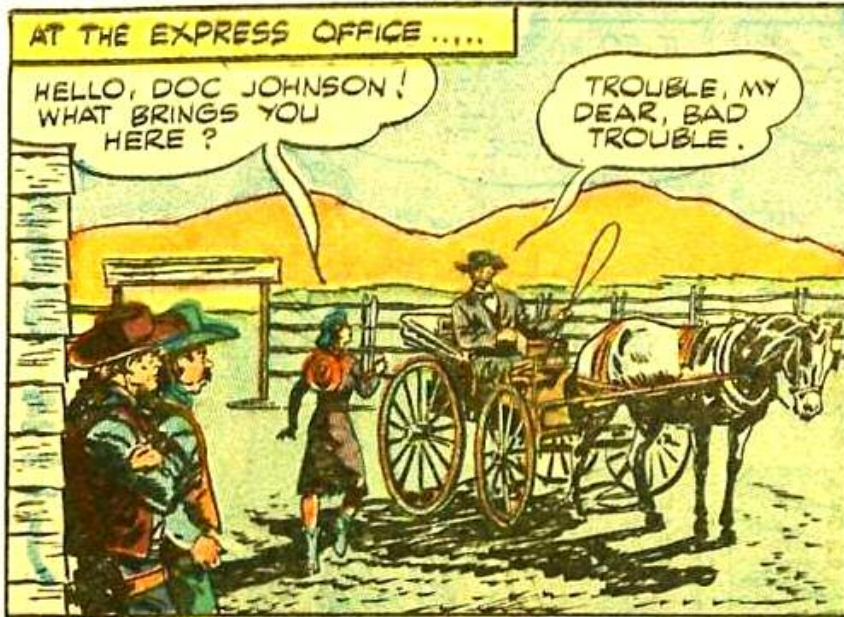
WHAT WAS THE COUPLE OF GUN SLINGIN' SADDLE TRAMPS RODE IN- TO TOWN. ONE OF THEM THREW AWAY A GUN ON US. THEY RODE AWAY WITH THE BARROW GAL,

HMMM, RECKON THEY WERE HIRIN' OUT AS RIDERS! THAT'S NOT GOOD. I WANT THE ARROW ROUTE...AND I'LL GET IT OR MY NAME AINT BRAD HAWKS.

SUDDENLY....

GOT SOME NEWS FOR YOU, HAWKS! THAR'S SMALL POX IN CACTUS HOLLOW! OLD DOG JOHNSON'S RUSHIN' VACCINE THERE BY THE ARROW EXPRESS!

THAT'S IT! SADDLE UP, BOYS...WE'RE PAYIN' MISS BARROW A VISIT SHE WON'T LIKE.



AT THE EXPRESS OFFICE

HELLO, DOC JOHNSON! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

TROUBLE, MY DEAR, BAD TROUBLE.



THERE'S SMALL FOX RAGIN' AT CACTUS HOLLOW AND THE VACCINE SUPPLY IS RUNNING SHORT. JUST RECEIVED A TELEGRAM ASKIN' FOR ALL I HAD. CAN YOU RUSH IT RIGHT OVER THERE?



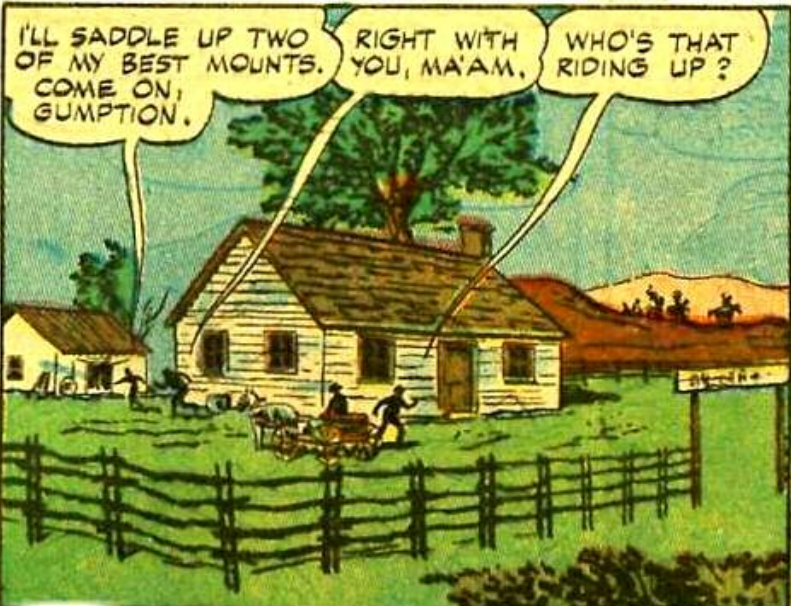
THESE TWO ARE MY NEW RIDERS, DUSTY BALLEW AND GUMPTION JONES, DOC.

HOW FAR IS CACTUS HOLLOW?

'BOUT TWENTY MILES... BUT IT'S A ROUGH ROAD. RECKON YOU CAN MAKE IT AFORE SUNDOWN?



RECKONIN WON'T HELP THEM PEOPLE, DOC. WE'LL HAVE TO... BUT OUR HOSSES ARE PLUMB TUCKERED. WE'LL NEED FRESH MOUNTS.



I'LL SADDLE UP TWO OF MY BEST MOUNTS. COME ON, GUMPTION.

RIGHT WITH YOU, MA'AM.

WHO'S THAT RIDING UP?

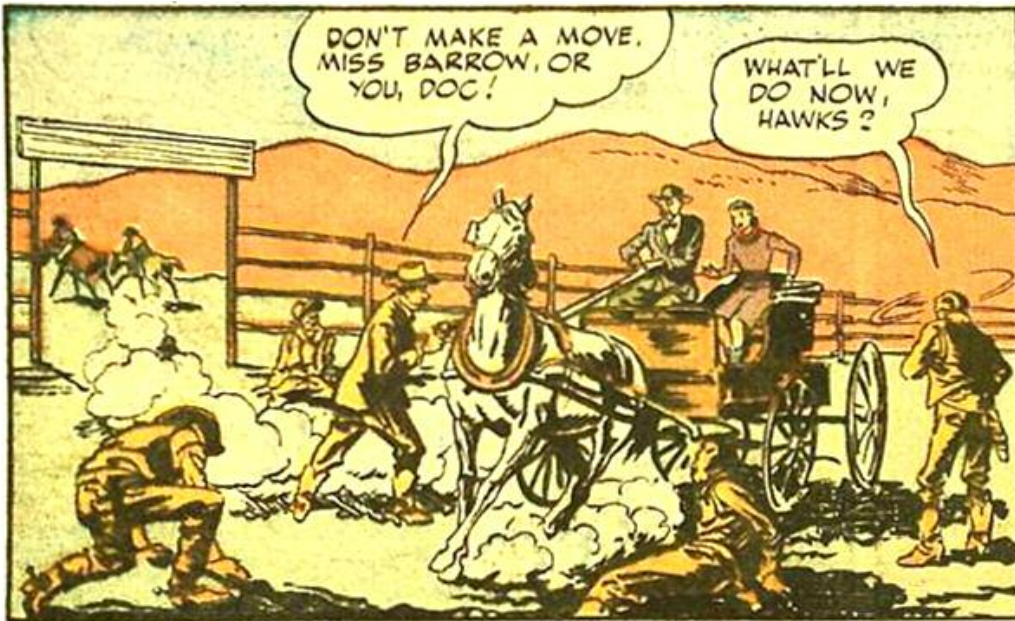


LOOKS LIKE MORE TROUBLE. IT'S BRAD HAWKS AND JED HOOPER. HAWKS HOLDS THE MORTGAGE ON THIS PLACE, Y'KNOW.

HOOPER, HUH? I'D SHOR LIKE TO PIN HIS EARS BACK.





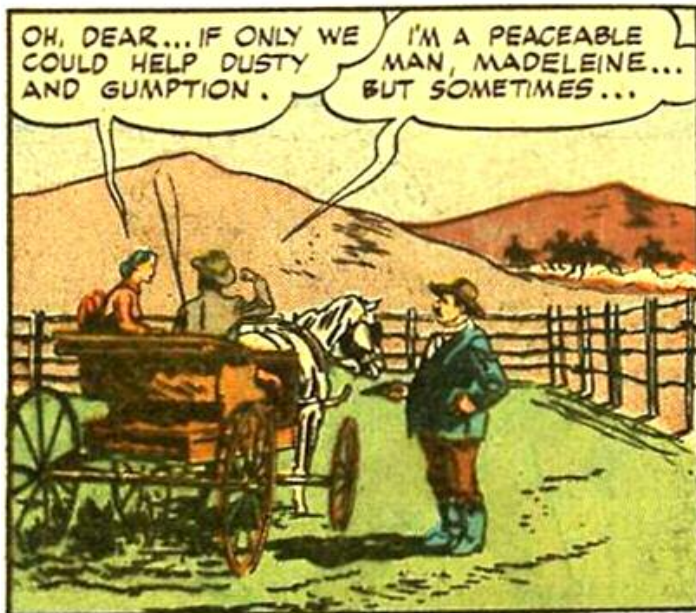


DON'T MAKE A MOVE, MISS BARROW, OR YOU, DOC!

WHAT'LL WE DO NOW, HAWKS?



DO? GET AFTER THEM. CUT THROUGH OAK PASS AND AMBUSH THEM. I'LL HANDLE THESE TWO.



OH, DEAR... IF ONLY WE COULD HELP DUSTY AND GUMPTION.

I'M A PEACEABLE MAN, MADELEINE... BUT SOMETIMES...

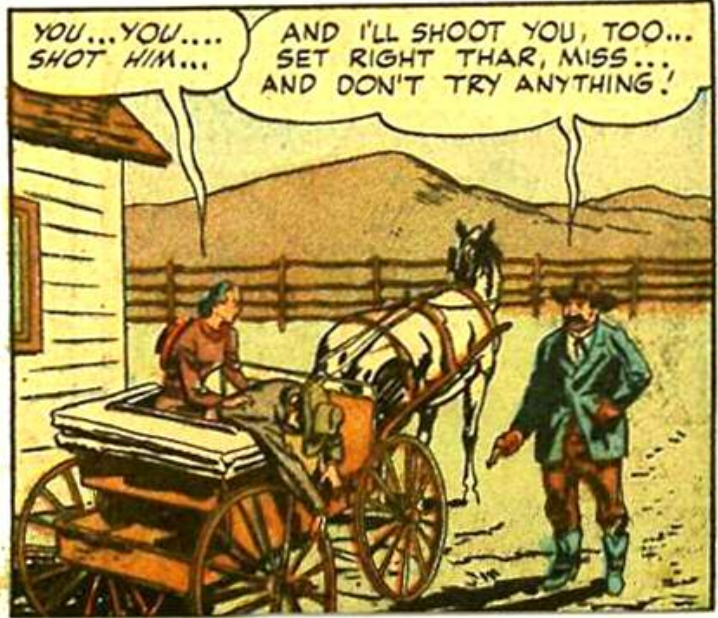


EVEN A PEACE LOVING MAN IS DRIVEN TO VIOLENCE, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE TIMES.



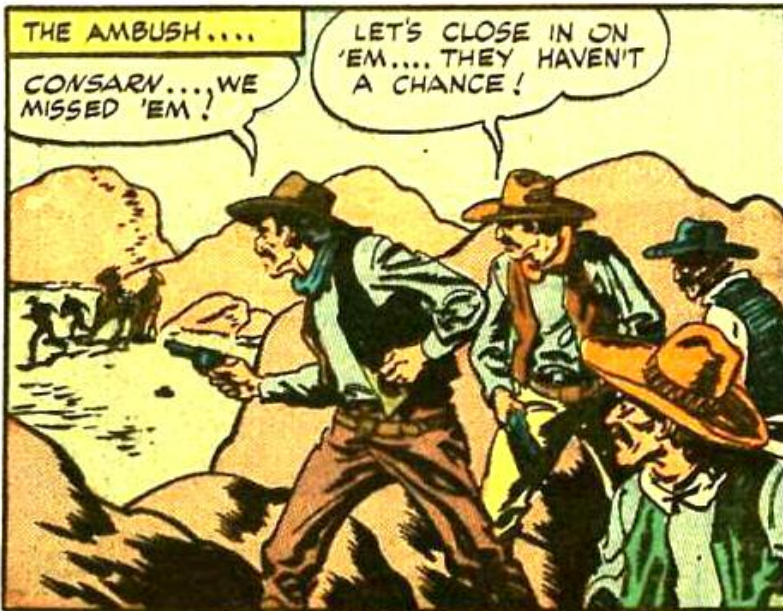
YOU DIRTY RAT, HAWKS! YOU.... OHHHHH!

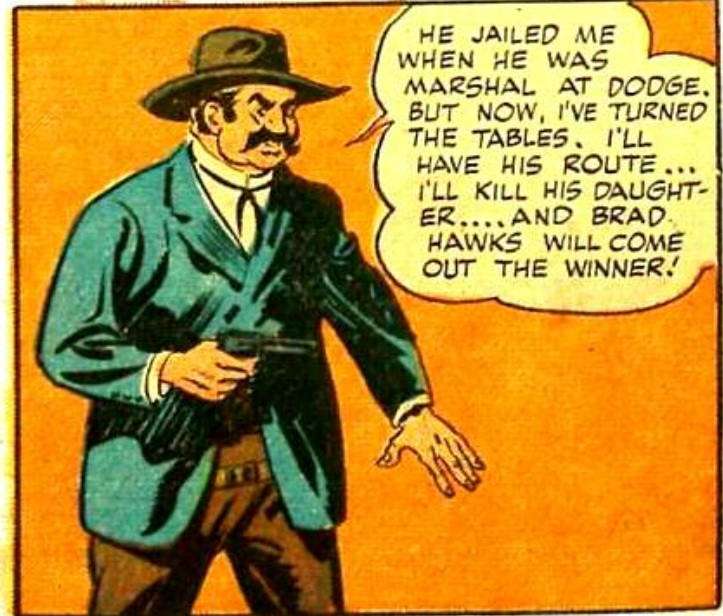
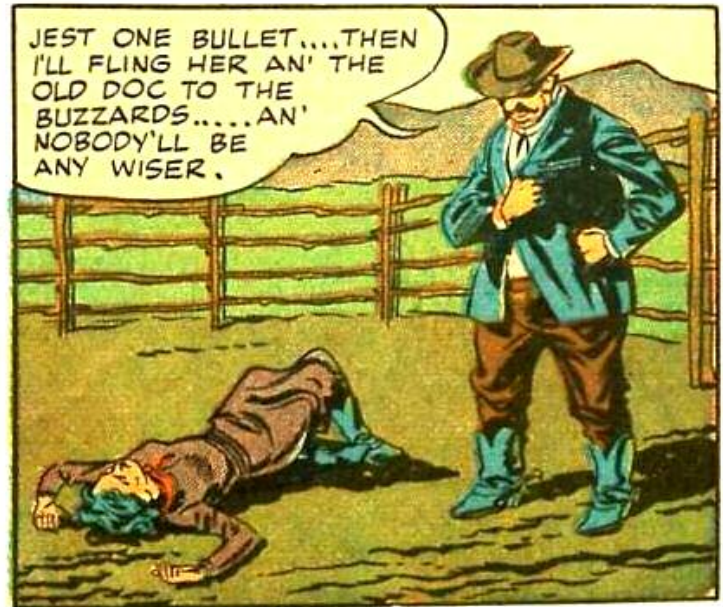
FOOL!

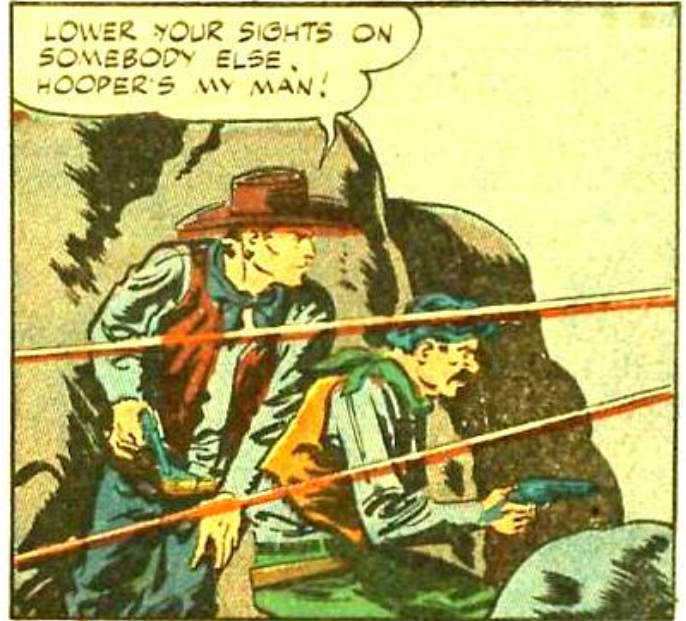


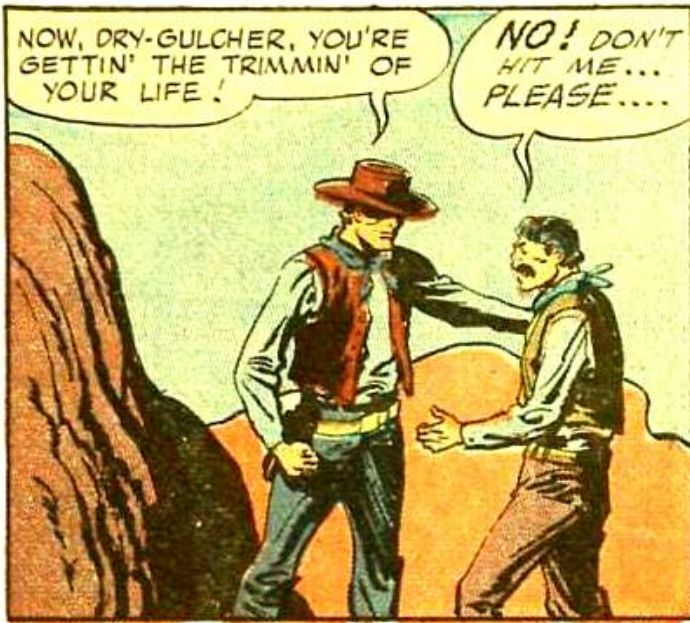
YOU... YOU.... SHOT HIM...

AND I'LL SHOOT YOU, TOO... SET RIGHT THAR, MISS... AND DON'T TRY ANYTHING!









AS DUSTY RACES BACK....

AH, MY PRETTY, I SEE YOU'RE BACK FROM WOOL-GATHERING...

HAWKS, YOU'RE THE LOWEST, CRAWLIN' SIDE-WINDIN' SNAKE! IF I WAS A MAN... I'D...

BUT YOU'RE NOT... AND NOW, I'M POWERFUL SORRY TO TELL YOU THAT I'M GOIN' TO KILL YOU.... ARE YOU AFEAERED?

I'M BILL BARROW'S DAUGHTER.... I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOUR KIND. GO AHEAD AND SHOOT.

PRETTY SPEECH! BUT THAT WON'T TURN A BULLET!

SUDDENLY....

AAAAAH!

YOU ??? BUT I THOUGHT...

CRAAAACK!

YOU THOUGHT I WAS DAID? NOT A TOUGH OLD CODGER LIKE ME, MADELEINE.

OH, DOC!

A FEW MINUTES LATER....

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I HEARD A SHOT!

EVERYTHING'S FINE, DUSTY.... MIGHTY FINE...

A FEW DAYS LATER...

YOU'LL BE OKAY NOW, MA'AM. HAWKS AN' HIS GANG WON'T BOTHER YOU NO MORE... AN' THE VACCINE STOPPED THE EPIDEMIC AT CACTUS HOLLOW.

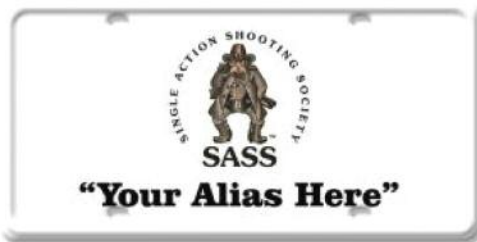
YESIREE..... IT WAS LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS, WHEN I CARRIED THE MAIL ON THE PONY EXPRESS...

GOODBYE, BOYS.... COME BACK TO LONE PINE, SOME DAY.

YEAH, MEBBE SOMEDAY WE'LL BE BACK.... WHO KNOWS?

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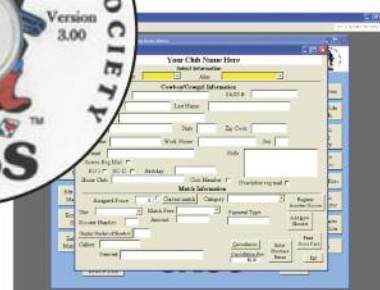
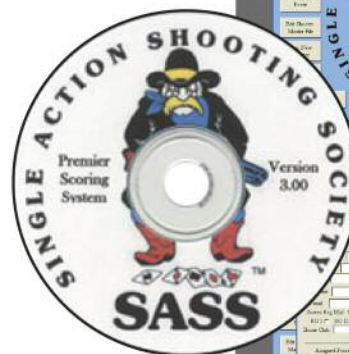


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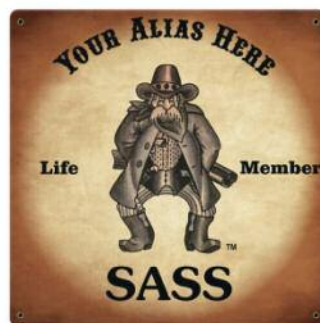


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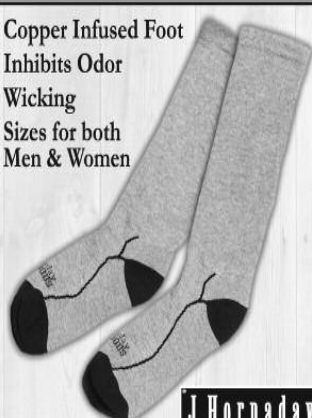
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 104,517.....Revenant Roy
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 104,528.....Geezer O'Malley
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 104,684.....Killer Nickles
 104,689.....Chicken Wing

IN

104,463.....Wiley George
 104,464.....Ruby Blackpearl
 104,486.....Quart McCall
 104,491.....Chapstick Kid
 104,645.....104645

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104,472.....Dad EO
 104,473.....Longhorn Lizzy
 104,480.....Ricochet Rick
 104,579.....OPossum Paul
 104,586.....Profanity Jane

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104,631.....Turkeyfoot Jim

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104,564.....Tom Kedrick
 104,650.....Conejo Valley Kid
 104,670.....Poppa Doc Moore
 104,677.....Rowdy Redneck

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104,508.....Wylie Junior
 104,563.....Tennessee Jed
 104,614.....Swigen

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104,634.....Grizzly Al

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104,507.....Wild Blue Hickok
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104,676.....Marty
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104,688.....A Small Abnormorality

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104,581.....Bearcat Dillinger
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104,643.....Kakadu Kaie
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104,577.....Dallas Johnnie
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104,694.....Bolo

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